

395 The Jerusalem Post

Woman brutally raped

RAINE MARCUS

A 32-year-old woman was raped in Tel Aviv's Tel Aviv Center shopping mall after being lured into a room by a man posing as a family member. The woman was taken to a hospital and is recovering from her injuries. The man, who is a member of the "Black Legion" gang, is being sought by police.

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Egyptian envoy to UN: We are committed to NPT

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

EGYPT is committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Egypt's ambassador to the UN insisted yesterday, although it remains unclear what action Cairo would take once the conference on extending the pact begins on Monday.

Meanwhile, a Cairo newspaper poll showed that Egyptians are linking normalization with Israel to its signing of the NPT.

"Egypt is 100 percent for the non-proliferation regime and 100 percent behind the NPT," Ambassador Nabil Araby told UN correspondents. But, he added, "I am not going to tell you how Egypt will vote because I have not received my instructions."

Officials in Cairo previously have said they would not support an indefinite extension because the treaty, with more than 170 signatories, is not universal.

Israel's refusal to sign the NPT has become one of the dominant issues in the conference, which opens in New York next week and is scheduled to last for a month. The conference is to determine for what period of time the pact should be extended.

The US is pushing for an indefinite extension of the 25-year-old NPT, which is intended to halt the spread of nuclear weapons by limiting them to five states - the US, Britain, France, Russia, and China. The so-called "have-not" states that signed the treaty



Some of a record 40,000 Israelis prepare to take off for the Pessah holiday from Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday on its busiest day ever, with 230 flights - also a record. (Israel Sun)

70% of country hametz-free

HERB KEINON

SEVENTY percent of the country's Jews will not bring hametz (leavened products) into their homes during Pessah, which begins tonight, according to a survey commissioned by Supersol.

The Gallup survey of 611 adult Jews found that only 55% of second-generation Israelis will not bring hametz into their homes during the seven-day festival.

Some 90% of the respondents who come from Asia and Africa will observe the dietary laws for Pessah, while the number among those of European and American descent is 62%.

Another survey, this one carried out by Mithshuv among 507 adult Jews, found that 37% of the Jews in Tel Aviv will eat hametz during Pessah. The Gallup poll found that in Jerusalem this number is only 12%.

According to the Gallup survey, 3.5% of the country's Jews will be abroad for the holiday, down some 5% from the previous year, when Pessah was on a Saturday night and therefore there was an extra day off from work.

The final time for eating hametz is to be burned by 11:15.

The Religious Affairs Ministry and the Absorption Ministry are sponsoring public seders this evening in 50 sites around the country for some 14,500 new immigrants.

The Pessah vacation is expected to bring thousands of hikers to the country's woods, parks, nature reserves and historical sites, and all the nature groups are organizing special events.

Hikers are being reminded to check their routes; travel only on marked paths; equip themselves with water and head gear; and make sure they leave the nature sites before dark. Walking alone is not advisable. Hikers are also advised to bring along mobile phones in the event of an emergency.

The Nature Reserves Authority is operating a "green line," with information on suggested sites and crowded spots to be avoided: (02) 389-068 and (02) 387-561.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel continues to operate its "Nature info" service. (Continued on Page 2)

Rabin: May take months for PA to be effective against terror

ALON PINKAS

IT may take months before it can be determined whether the Palestinian Authority's clampdown on terror cells in Gaza is effective and the PA is taking control of affairs, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday.

Visiting soldiers wounded in Sunday's suicide bombings in the Gaza Strip at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer, Rabin stressed that negotiations on the implementation of the next stages of the Oslo accord would continue.

"I made it clear that we will continue the dialogue with the Palestinians, but only based on the premise that they do their part in observing the agreement we have signed, namely, assuring us that they are operating decisively against armed groups under their jurisdiction, against those who plan and those who carry out terror attacks. This is a test that cannot be evaluated in one or two days," Rabin said.

The type of suicide terror we are encountering, he stressed, is a test of endurance and will.

Later in the day, Rabin met Labor ministers and MKs for a traditional Pessah toast, and asked that they display more political determination and unity.

"This house, Labor's headquarters, joined ranks, put in the extra effort and unmitigated determination, and won in 1992. When we were voted into office, we said that we would do everything possible to exploit every chance for peace. Anyone who understands even a little about foreign and defense policy must have known that the road to peace and security would by no means be short and easy. A bloody conflict, which has been raging for 100 years, laden with emotions and hatred, can only be resolved by means of a process, not a stopwatch," Rabin said.

"We have drastically changed the domestic agenda, and results are already visible in education, in transportation infrastructure, in a significantly lower unemployment rate. We must proceed to balance the change of priorities we have initiated with an advancement of peace and security. The real solution - and I have said this in harder times than today - lies in determination, resolute decisions, relentlessness, and decisiveness, not in constant whining," Rabin said.

Turning to terrorism, Rabin said: "Since January 1, 1994, 21 Israelis have been murdered in the Gaza Strip. It is the same number as in 1993. But the difference is that while in 1993, 11 of those killed were civilians and 10 were soldiers or security people, since 1994, 17 of those killed have been soldiers or security people, and only four civilians, none of them a resident of the Gaza Strip settlements. This attests to the high price the IDF, Border Police, and police pay for security."

Elba gets two years in jail

HERB KEINON and Tim

RABBI Ido Elba, convicted of incitement to racism, illegal possession and manufacturing of weapons, seeking information about a restricted area, and obstruction of justice, was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison and two years' suspended.

Jerusalem District Judge Ayala Procaccia said the sentence is meant to show that acts of racial incitement, coupled with intended acts of violence against another population, are forbidden by the law and are worthy of moral condemnation.

"I said that I was not guilty," Elba told reporters. "A perversion of justice was done here. Anyone who reads the court protocol and the indictment will see that it is not right."

Elba has been in jail since September, and the eight months he has already spent in prison will be counted toward his sentence.

The conviction stemmed from a 14-page halachic pamphlet, entitled "Clarification of the halachot pertaining to the murder of Gentiles," that Elba published a few weeks after Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Moslems in the Machpela Cave.

Elba wrote that the biblical injunction "Thou shalt not kill" is not applicable to a Jew who kills a Gentile, and that this is not forbidden by the Torah.

Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen said in response to Elba's conviction that "the right to think and express an opinion in the framework of the [yeshiva] study hall is not a reason for a criminal conviction."

Cohen said he does not agree with what Elba wrote.

Syria says it will not upgrade peace talks

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Syria said yesterday it will not upgrade its ambassadorial-level talks with Israel in Washington to include security officials, because of a deadlock on security arrangements.

"The chiefs of staff [of Israel and Syria] will not go to Washington, because an agreement has not been reached over the principles of security arrangements," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara told reporters in Beirut.

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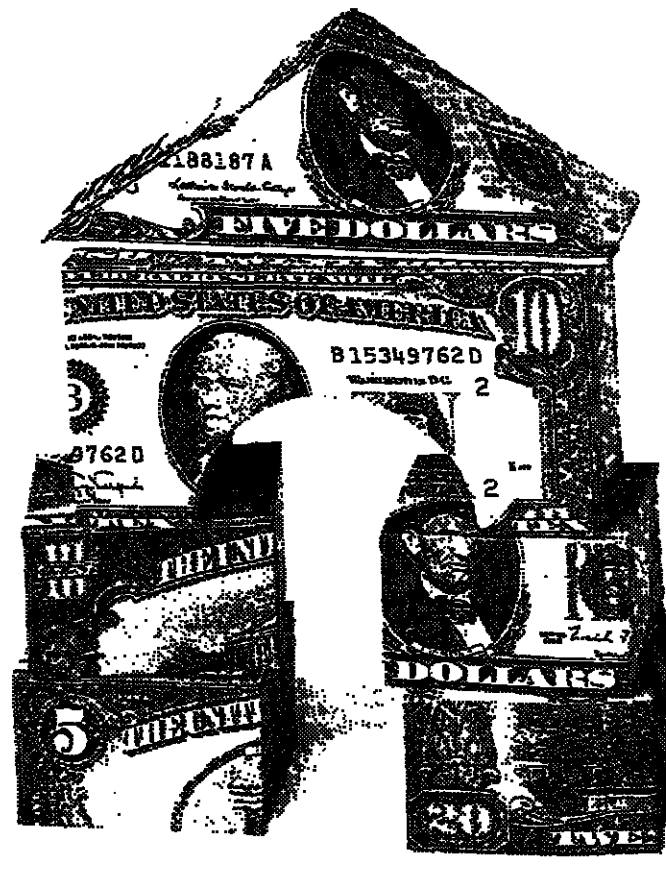
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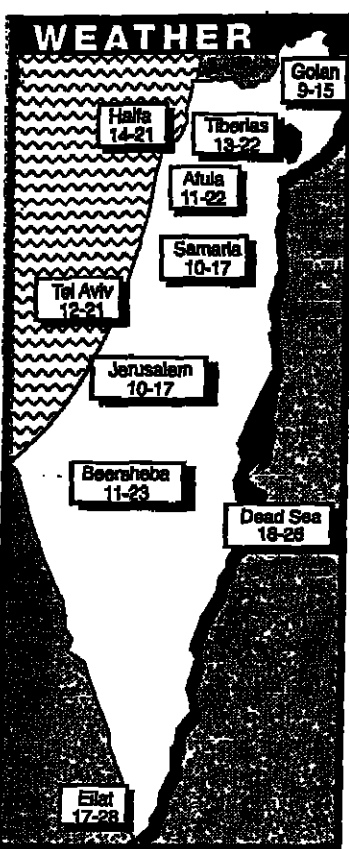
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'Peace with Jordan more successful than expected'

ALON PINKAS

THE implementation of the peace agreement with Jordan is surpassing expectations, and excellent relations have developed between officers on both sides of the border, Col. Munir Badr, commander of the Arava Brigade, said yesterday.

A former commander of the Druse Battalion, Badr took over command of a 190-km.-long section of the border with Jordan 14 months before the treaty was signed.

"Basically our mission has remained routine security and infiltration prevention. That has not changed since the agreement. In the last four years, there have been no infiltrations in this area," Badr said.

The Arava Brigade is also responsible for the 280 sq. km. Israel returned to Jordan.

"There were doubts how this would work, but I am glad to say

that the level of cooperation and goodwill both sides are displaying is extraordinary. Farmers from Tsofar relinquished control of land they owned, but under the peace agreement were given permission to continue cultivating the land. Not only are they escorted by Jordanian soldiers, but on Saturdays, they visit the Jordanian outpost for coffee and cake."

Badr described the liaison mechanism between his brigade and the Jordanian brigade as "effective and expeditious."

"We meet with the brigade commander and his battalion commanders. We exchange views, try to solve problems, and coordinate ongoing environmental cooperation. I must say that, judging by my encounters with them, the Jordanian officers and soldiers are disciplined, professional, and highly educated."

Palestinian Police raids Hamas paper in Gaza

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN policemen yesterday raided the offices of the Hamas weekly newspaper in Gaza, but not before it published this week's edition accusing the police of torturing detainees and of frightening children.

Police arrested senior editors Dr. Ghazi Hamad and Sheikh Sayed Abu Musameh, and took away some computers and fax machines, but released the two within hours.

There were conflicting reports on the number of arrests made this week with Hamas claiming 300 and Attorney-General Khalid al-Qidrah saying a few more than 200.

In Gaza City, police came to arrest Sheikh Ahmed Jaaban, who spent 13 years in Israeli jails, then arrested four other members of the family when they opened fire on them.

Al-Qidrah said that those who opened fire would be tried.

Attempts are underway to reach a modus vivendi, but the question is on whose terms.

Leading Hamas activist Ismail Haniye said that Hamas is ready to discuss national unity with the Palestinian Authority on condition that the arrests stop, those in jail are released, and the sentences of two Islamic Jihad members jailed for 15 and 25 years are reviewed.

Such arguments often worked in the past, leading to talks between Hamas and Fatah which usually got nowhere. But yesterday they were ignored. Fatah activists stood behind the PA leadership, saying the crackdown is in the Palestinian national interest.

Other Hamas leaders, notably Dr. Mahmud Zahar, were less than conciliatory. He argued Wednesday that no one in Hamas would give up his weapon and his right to use violence against Israelis.

Senior Palestinian Authority legal officials have already ruled out police raids on homes after the May 11 deadline for licensing weapons passes, but may make selective searches.

Rashid Abu Shubac, a deputy head of preventive security in Gaza, said yesterday that Zahar was one of 450 civilians licensed by the police to keep a pistol. Many other licenses were issued to Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters concerned for their personal safety.

The rising tension between Hamas and Fatah has brought its share of absurdity, as Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has tried to deflect at least some responsi-

bility for each attack to a sinister Israeli plot to undermine the peace process.

Arafat had to deny he told an American delegation that the Beit Lid attack was masterminded by the General Security Service, but his advisers insisted collaborators, rumored to be double agents from Dahiyeh camp in southern Gaza, were involved.

The Hamas bomb factory explosion in Gaza on April 2, followed by the attacks near Kfar Darom and Netzarim, left no room to deflect responsibility from Islamic extremists to Israel. At the same time, PA officials are less embarrassed than before by accusations of PA collaboration with Israel.

The PA is also seeking ways to dry up financial support for Hamas.

An official source in Amman told AP that the Interior Ministry had summoned Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh and told him to stop violating Jordanian law by issuing statements attacking the Palestinian Authority.

"There is no Hamas activity in Jordan, there are individuals who express their opinions about everything to do with Hamas activities," Jordanian Ambassador Marwan Muhsar said on ITV's Arabic service.

Golan activists plan Pessah campaign

DAVID RUDGE

GOLAN Heights activists intend to take advantage of the expected mass influx of visitors over Pessah to promote their campaign to keep the region under Israeli sovereignty.

Information centers have been established at fixed points on the Golan and mobile units, known as "Golanot," will tour the region over the holiday.

Meanwhile, the campaign against giving the Golan to Syria in return for peace has been boosted by the support of US Sen. Jesse Helms.

Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a letter to an American supporter of the campaign to keep the Golan under Israeli rule that he would do all in his power to oppose the stationing of US troops on the heights in the event of a peace accord with Syria.

"I am deeply concerned about the plans now being formulated by the Clinton administration to place American soldiers on the Golan as part of a Syria-Israel peace agreement," said Helms in the letter, a copy of which has reached the Golan Residents Committee.

Helms said such a move would be a mistake. "In so far as Syria is unlikely to abide by any peace agreement, American troops

could be caught in the middle of renewed violence between Syria and Israel," he said.

"The presence of American soldiers on the Golan would also limit Israel's range of response to Syrian aggression and might become a source of tension in the US's important relationship with Israel," Helms wrote.

"Furthermore, our troops might become the target for terrorist attacks from south Lebanon, a terrorist stronghold. Be assured that as the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will fight hard to prevent the placement of any American servicemen on the Golan Heights."

Ramona Bar-Lev, a member of the Golan Residents Committee, said the letter was a welcome boost, coming from such an influential American politician.

"We are delighted that we have such a friend who is concerned with protecting the interests of the US and the security of Israel," said Bar-Lev, wife of Kitzin local council chairman Sammy Bar-Lev.

She said tens of thousands of people were expected to visit the Golan over Pessah for various events, including an international kite flying competition at Kitzin and a treasure hunt.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	8-12	13-15	partly cloudy
Berlin	7-11	12-14	clear
Buenos Aires	15-20	21-23	clear
Cairo	18-22	23-25	clear
Chicago	10-14	15-17	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	8-12	13-15	clear
Frankfurt	9-13	14-16	clear
Geneva	10-14	15-17	clear
Hong Kong	22-26	27-29	partly cloudy
London	10-14	15-17	clear
Los Angeles	18-22	23-25	clear
Madrid	15-20	21-23	clear
Moscow	5-9	10-12	clear
Munich	8-12	13-15	clear
New York	15-20	21-23	clear
Paris	10-14	15-17	clear
Rome	15-20	21-23	clear
Stockholm	8-12	13-15	clear
Sydney	18-22	23-25	clear
Tokyo	15-20	21-23	clear
Toronto	10-14	15-17	clear
Vienna	8-12	13-15	clear

Winning numbers

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 597427 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 407840 won a car.

Tickets numbered 481414, 705539, 777590, 463006, 430665, 025701, 746862 and 096580 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 64171, 70822, 51244, 59758, 47075, 44792, 44990, 00501, 10004, 77641, 15573, 11881, 99698, 04692, 74336 69974, 57666, 69966 and 41077 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 766, 313, 998, 945, and 846 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 04, 10, 98, 74 and 97 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 1 and 7 won NIS 8.

HAMETZ

(Continued from Page 1)

at (03) 375-222, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and the Jewish National Fund has three lines with information on its activities: (050) 377-431 (southern events); (050) 375-336 (northern activities); and (050) 375-288 (central region).

Picnic tables for the disabled have been set up at three JNF forests: Shahariyya, north of Beersheba; Lahav, and Ya'ar Bezak in the Ben-Shimon forest. There are gravel paths for easier wheelchair access, as well as special picnic tables.

Vacationers are asked to make sure they leave nothing be-

hind but footprints. The Environment Ministry is operating a clean-up campaign countrywide, and hundreds of youths from community centers will be distributing garbage bags to visitors to the Kinneret area.

In Jerusalem, a first-of-its kind motorcycle anti-terror unit is to begin operating during Pessah, as part of police preparations for the threat of continued attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Officers riding the 12 new Kawasaki-500 motorcycles will be armed with short M-16s.

Jerusalem Police chief Arye

Amit began pushing for the establishment of a motorcycle anti-terror unit over a year ago, but only late last year was the go-ahead given for the unit.

Meanwhile, security is being beefed up by police throughout the country for Pessah. Patrols have been increased in crowded areas that could be the target of attacks, police said.

In a statement released yesterday, police called on the public to be on the lookout for suspicious objects and persons, and to report them immediately.

Terrorists have crossed the line

in the past, either by road or on foot across fields, to carry out deadly attacks in Afula and Badera, as well as planting bombs and damaging property in Mount Gilboa and Tamahim.

The closure began last night at midnight and is to remain in effect for the entire week of Pessah. However, during the intermediate days there will be minor adjustments made for some Palestinians to enter the country, according to the police.

Herb Keiron, Liat Collins, David Rudge, Raine Marcus and Bill Hutman contributed to this report.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman killed in road accident

A policeman was killed last night when his motor scooter was hit by a taxi in downtown Tel Aviv.

Itan

Prisoners get Pessah furloughs

Tel Aviv District Court decided yesterday to allow the 16-year-old girl under house arrest for her role in the kidnapping of diamond heiress Keren Gerdler to leave her home for a few Pessah family gatherings. The girl, whose remand was extended yesterday, has been under house arrest for three months and is only allowed to go to school.

Some 1,307 prisoners in the country are expected to leave prison for Pessah furloughs.

Itan

Palestinian passports confiscated

Israeli border authorities confiscated 4,080 Palestinian Authority passports yesterday made out in the names of Israeli citizens, which a Wafk official was taking to Amman for distribution to Israeli Muslim pilgrims there.

The government coordinator in the territories, Maj. Gen. Oren Shohor, sent a letter to PA civil affairs chief Jamil Tarifi saying that the attempt was a "blatant violation" of agreements.

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مكتبة الكمال

about he caught in the middle
violence between the
and Israel," he said.
The presence of American
in the Golan would be
a range of responses
aggression and might be
source of tension in the
important relationship we
have with Israel.
Helm wrote.
Furthermore, our army
has become the target for
attacks from South Le-
banon, and as the new danger
of terrorism grows, the
American Foreign Inter-
est will be in a difficult
position. The placement of
American servicemen on the
Golan Heights is a major
issue for the Residents Com-
mittee. The letter was a re-
sponse to a letter from such an
American politician.
The letter delighted the
committee's friend who is a
member of the House of Rep-
resentatives and the vice-
president of the council.
Bar-Lev, a member of the
committee, said that of those
who expected to see the
letter, he was the only one
who had not seen it. He was
adding an interesting
comment on the
committee's work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW ROAD accident

Rescue thorough

Weapons confiscated



Math, literature, civics dropped from matriculations



A jubilant 12th-grader carries Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein on his shoulders yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

MATHEMATICS, civics, and Hebrew literature were deleted from the list of compulsory subjects for this year's *bagrut* (matriculation) examination yesterday.

This leaves four compulsory examinations - Bible, English, composition, and one subject chosen by the pupil.

A cheer went up in the hall of the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem as an electronic selector flashed the first non-compulsory subject - mathematics - on a large screen. Together with English, mathematics is deemed by large numbers of 12th graders.

This year, the class grade in mathematics will be considered the final grade for the *bagrut* certificate. Since the two subjects have been "paired," the device cannot select both subjects in the same year.

Standing on the dais alongside a high school pupil and Shoshani Shoshani, his ministry's director-

BATSHEVA TSUR

general, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein pushed the button for the second subject.

"This is like Russian roulette," said Omer Weisblum, a pupil from Ramat Gan, who said he disapproved of the new system.

"I can't support it either," concurred another 12th-grader, Yael Manser, who said she opposed "gramming a year's curriculum into two-thirds of the year."

But in the hall, the cheering continued as literature flashed onto the screen after Shoshani pressed the button.

"The intention is not to lower standards by making it easier to study for the *bagrut*," Rubinstein said. "It is to alleviate the pressure on the pupils while they are taking the exams ... to space them out more."

Israel, he said, is the only Western country which gives such a large number of matricula-

tion exams. "We are gradually moving over to a system where half of the grades will be given on the basis of the year's work by the schools themselves," he added. He noted that all schools had been obliged to send their class marks to the ministry before the "lottery" took place.

Rubinstein said his policy of getting half the country's youngsters to take the *bagrut* exams is already bearing fruit. "We have had exceptional results with regard to the number of those eligible for the *bagrut* this year, based on the principle of equal opportunity," he said.

While many worried parents and angry teachers telephoned an Israel Radio call-in program on the subject, Rubinstein received a rare recognition from the delighted pupils: he was carried out of the "*bagrut* bingo" hall, as some were calling it, on the shoulders of cheering 12th-graders.

Rape victim's husband arrested as additional suspect

RAINE MARCUS

THE husband of the pregnant woman brutally raped on Tuesday was arrested yesterday after police discovered new evidence indicating he was present during his wife's ordeal.

The man's friend, Yuri Duginov, 32, who allegedly raped and sodomized the woman in her Hatikva home, was remanded yesterday for 15 days by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court.

The woman, three months pregnant and the mother of three children, lost consciousness during the rape and had to undergo an operation in the hospital. She had been found bleeding and writhing by her five-year-old son.

Duginov, who was "very drunk," was arrested in the apartment and later admitted the rape.

In remanding Duginov, Judge Bracha Ophir said the incident portrayed by police was "particularly horrific." She complied with his lawyer's request to send him for psychiatric examinations.

Now police suspect that the woman's husband was present during the attack because of contradictory statements he gave.

A police officer said he may even have participated in the rape, during which "sharp objects were used."

The man is expected to appear in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court for a remand hearing this morning.

'Yediot Aharonot' declared a monopoly

THE government on Wednesday declared *Yediot Aharonot* a monopoly, enabling some state control over its price and business decisions.

Yoram Turbovich, the Industry and Trade Ministry official in charge of business restrictions, said the daily earned the status by accounting for over one half of the daily newspaper sales in the country, Army Radio reported.

No exact circulation figures were available, however.

By law, *Yediot's* newsstand price could be limited by a special court, said Moshe Brunofsky, an expert on monopolies from Tel Aviv University.

The paper's publisher will also be barred from conditioning advertisements in the national daily

on purchase of space in smaller local affiliates, a practice used by *Yediot* and other papers. Running ads at below-market prices to undercut poorer competitors could also be prevented, Brunofsky told the radio.

Brunofsky said the court, made up of a judge and several public figures to be appointed by the state, is limited in power and unlikely to influence content.

"They will [only] supervise unfair competition," he said.

Editor-in-chief Moshe Vardi declined comment and publisher Arnon Mozes was not available. But the paper issued a statement reveling in the recognition of its success.

(AP)

'Marijuana farm' raided in Negev

A YEROHAM man suspected of growing 202 marijuana plants in a hothouse in Hamachtesh Hakatan was remanded for four days by Beersheba Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Dimona police staked out the hothouse, after they discovered it earlier in the week.

Inside the hothouse they found the marijuana plants, along with gardening tools and irrigation equipment.

Late Tuesday afternoon, a man, later identified as Grisho Gabrilov, 37, drove up to the site, got out of his car and began walking toward the hothouse.

As a police car drove up, he ran back to his car and tried to flee, but was cut off by a second police car and arrested.

At the hearing, First-Sgt. David Asraf said that since footprints found near the hothouse didn't match Gabrilov's, police suspect he may have had partners in his marijuana farm.

Gabrilov, he added, was not cooperating with police.

Gabrilov told the court he had gone to the site to pick up a sheep and didn't know anything about the hothouse. The judge rejected his explanation, and ordered his remand.

(Itim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two casinos raided

Police raided two casinos - one in Tel Aviv and the other in Bnei Brak - early yesterday morning, arresting 110 people, including dealers and gamblers.

On Allenby Street, 13 gamblers and four British dealers were arrested, while near the Coca-Cola factory, a raid netted 45 Bnei Brak residents, 26 from Herzliya and 22 from other locations.

(Itim)

Trips abroad up

The number of trips abroad by Israelis in 1994 was 1.84 million, an increase of 3 percent over 1993, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced. It was also the largest number of exits ever recorded in a year. The most popular destination was Turkey, followed by the US, France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Switzerland. Eighty percent said they were traveling for pleasure, and 10% for business.

(Itim)

Man gets NIS 6m. car crash settlement

Beersheba District Court yesterday ordered the Zion insurance company to pay NIS 6.8 million to a man who became 100 percent handicapped as a result of a 1988 car crash. The company never denied it owed compensation to Dan Atzmon, 29, of Moshav Heletz, who had a policy with them. However, Zion did not agree it should pay the amount Atzmon was asking, for damages, pain, suffering, loss of income and loss of quality of life.

The company was also ordered to pay NIS 680,000 in court costs. The case was in court for seven years.

(Itim)

Winning cards

Yesterday's Chance card draw: the 10 of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

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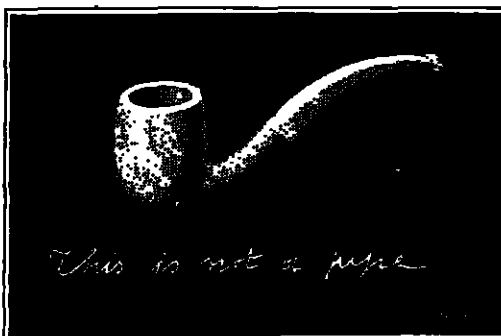


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Tajik-Afghan border fighting spreads; 100 die

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — Fighting spread along the Tajik-Afghan border yesterday, and Afghanistan accused Russia of carrying out air raids against civilians in its north.

State-run Radio Kabul said 100 civilians were killed when a dozen Russian jets bombed the provincial capital of Taloqan. The report could not be independently confirmed; the radio has a reputation for accurately reporting the location of attacks but sometimes exaggerating casualty figures.

Russia has denied other recent Afghan allegations about air raids over northern Afghanistan. Russian officials were unavailable for comment late yesterday at the Foreign and Defense ministries in Moscow.

Tajik rebels, supported by some Islamic factions in Afghanistan, have been conducting an offensive against Russian-led border guards all week.

While fighting continued yesterday around the First Border Post in the restive Badkhash autonomous region, it also engulfed another post, the Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agencies said. Citing Russian Border Guard officials, they reported new clashes at the Khorog-Bardich regiment, 5 kilometers north of the region's administrative center, Khorog.

At least one border guard and one rebel were killed yesterday, Interfax said.

The Moslem rebels are battling the traditionally communist gov-

ernment of Tajik President Esmat Rakhmonov. Rakhmonov has the help of several thousand Russian border guards and troops from the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

At least 35 of the allied border guards have been killed and 79 wounded since the rebels began their offensive April 7.

The Russian military command told Interfax the rebels appeared to be trying to seize the Badkhash region, 700 kilometers southwest of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, as a springboard for an offensive into central Tajikistan.

Moslem reinforcements were moving toward the area from inside Afghanistan, the Border Guard said.

Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry said it wrote the UN requesting an urgent meeting on the reported Russian air strikes.

President Boris Yeltsin, meanwhile, met with the chief of Russia's Border Guards and called for urgent measures to "boost the use of funds and forces allocated to guard [Tajikistan's] border," ITAR-Tass said.

A special UN envoy is already in the region trying to organize talks. Russian and UN officials fear the fighting might completely destroy a shaky September 1994 cease-fire between the government and the Islamic opposition.

A Tajik government delegation also headed for Gorno-Badkhash yesterday.

Mandela to decide today on Winnie

PRETORIA (Reuters) — South African President Nelson Mandela said after talks with his government partners yesterday that he would rule on the political future of his estranged wife Winnie within 24 hours.

Mandela met National Party leader F.W. de Klerk and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to discuss the latest controversy surrounding Winnie Mandela hours after returning from a trip to the Gulf.

He dismissed her from her post as deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology nearly three weeks ago without giving reasons.

He reinstated her on Wednesday after she brought a legal action contesting her dismissal on the grounds that Buthelezi had not been consulted beforehand.

"I have reinstated her as deputy minister because of some procedural irregularities. I have consulted both Chief Buthelezi and Deputy President de Klerk on the question and I have their views," Mandela told a news conference after the meeting.

"It is my task to consider their views very carefully before I take the next move and because this is an important matter I should not rush any decision. I propose to make a statement on the matter tomorrow [Friday]."

Mandela said there was no dissent among the leaders during the discussions. "The consultation has been very smooth and there were no differences of opinion," she said.

Winnie Mandela has often criticized the ruling national unity coalition, but sources in Mandela's African National Congress said the main reason for her original dismissal was her defiance of an instruction to cancel a trip to West Africa.

During a stopover in Nairobi earlier, Mandela said his government's credibility remained unshaken despite the botched dismissal.

"The reputations of governments are not affected by issues of this nature," he said.

A government source said Mandela was likely to dismiss Winnie again after following the correct constitutional procedures.

National Party spokesman Fanus Schoeman said the incident had undermined the credibility of Mandela's year-old government, which includes minority representation by his party and Inkatha.

Political analyst Tom Lodge said Mandela had been poorly advised and embarrassed, but not personally hurt by the affair.

"On the whole, ministers do not challenge their dismissal when it happens. It takes a Winnie Mandela to break the mould," he said.

Lodge said he assumed Mandela would fire Winnie Mandela again as soon as possible, adding: "I assume this is a technical reappointment."

Schwarzenegger in paternity suit

DENTON, Texas (Reuters) — Arnold Schwarzenegger has been named in a paternity suit filed on behalf of a Texas woman who claims the actor is the father of her 12-year-old daughter. Debra Wrenn, 41, in a suit filed in county court in Denton, said she notified Schwarzenegger last November that he was the father of her daughter, Christina Lynn Bentlage. In a letter to Schwarzenegger included among court papers, Wrenn said the lawsuit was filed because her daughter has been diagnosed with a bone cyst that requires a biopsy and possible bone graft she cannot afford.

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Hooded penitents play drums during the Holy Week procession in downtown Zaragoza yesterday, part of the traditional Easter processions taking place throughout Spain. (AP)

Ex-Simpson juror: Racial strife rife among panelists

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Racial strife between O.J. Simpson trial jurors was so intense that white and black jurors didn't share the same gym, and two jurors once hit another in the head, an ousted juror said in documents released yesterday.

Jeanette Harris told Superior Court Judge Lance Ito during a closed-door hearing that jurors were bucking under the pressure of 24-hour sequestration, with a series of trivial clashes adding up to major problems, a transcript of Wednesday's hearing said.

Harris said white jurors exercised in an upstairs hotel gym and blacks went to one downstairs.

"The white jurors didn't like going to the gym with us," Harris told the judge. "I can't explain why."

Simpson is accused in the June 12 slaying deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman. Simpson, a former football star who stayed in the celebrity spotlight as an actor and TV sports commentator, says he is innocent.

Harris said that in March, a Hispanic woman and a white woman hit a black man while watching a movie.

"They were walking behind — he was sitting in the front row, and they were walking behind him, and they hit him," Harris said.

Harris said the black juror brought the subject up another day in the jury room, telling colleagues, "You guys hit me. You literally hit me. And I don't like it."

Harris, who is black, was ousted from the jury last week for failing to disclose a past incident on her juror questionnaire. She had accused her husband in a 1988 court document of pushing her and forcing her to have sex. Her complaints in television interviews last week, describing other incidents of juror discord and possible violations of rules against discussing the case, touched off an investigation by Ito.

Harris also described a number of pressures of life under 24-hour guard, including monitored phone calls and a constant feeling that jurors' rooms were being searched without their knowledge.

The panel of jurors and alternates now consists of 12 blacks, four whites and two Hispanics. Only six alternates remain.

Harris also told Ito that white and black jurors argued about which videos to watch, with white jurors complaining they were always being outvoted by the black majority, according to her attorney, Milton Grimes.

Sheriff's guards tried to solve the problem by setting up two viewing rooms, one used mostly by whites and one by blacks, Grimes said.

Harris believes that one white juror still on the panel disliked blacks, Grimes said.

Harris also said she overheard one juror talking to another about a possible outcome of the case.

"A juror said to another juror that they were going to make sure, essentially, that the jury is hung," Grimes said. He didn't think the juror who made that statement is still on the panel.

Menem warns two-round poll would mean 'chaos'

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) — Argentina would dissolve into chaos if he does not win re-election in the first round on May 14 and the election is forced to go to a second round, President Carlos Menem said in an interview broadcast yesterday.

"The Argentine people won't swallow it. If that happens, it would be total chaos," he said in a television interview in the regional city of Mendoza recorded late on Wednesday.

But the Peronist leader, who has a clear lead in all the latest opinion polls, said a second round is unlikely.

"On May 14 we are set for a resounding triumph because there are no better proposals from our political adversaries," said Menem, who changed the constitution last year to allow him to stand for a second consecutive term.

The latest Gallup poll published by *La Nacion* this week showed Menem winning 46 percent. He needs 45 percent, or 40 percent with a 10-point lead, to ensure a first-round victory.

US, North Korea recess nuclear negotiations

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — US and North Korean negotiators have recessed talks in Berlin on carrying out a landmark nuclear agreement and will resume negotiations there on Tuesday, the State Department said yesterday.

Spokesman Nicholas Burns said the US team was headed back to Washington for consultations but stressed: "It's not a cancellation of the talks."

Burns told reporters he had limited information from the US delegation in Berlin about the recess but said: "There's no reason to think it's bad. It's consistent, in fact, with what happened during the last round of talks."

"We had a very good and full exchange with the North Koreans. It was felt by both sides and agreed by both sides this time that there was need for another recess so that the two sides could have consultations in [their] capitals. And so that's why they're returning. But it is a recess, it's not a cancellation," he said.

The two sides have been trying to settle a dispute over the type of nuclear reactor North Korea will receive as part of an agreement with the US last October.

Washington insists that South Korea, North Korea's arch-enemy, must be the primary funder,

designer and builder of the reactors, but Pyongyang is demanding an alternative supplier.

North Korea halted its nuclear program and stopped building two big new reactors after signing a nuclear accord with the United States in Geneva last October.

Washington, which says the pact would help divert North Korea from making a nuclear bomb, has warned Pyongyang it will press for UN sanctions if it breaks the freeze.

Japan's Kyodo news agency, quoting unnamed diplomatic sources in Berlin, said North Korea had renewed a threat to refuse its one working reactor at Yongbyon April 21 if negotiations between the two sides failed to progress.

A spokesman for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN's nuclear safeguards watchdog, said inspectors at Yongbyon had seen no evidence that North Korea was contemplating refueling the five-megawatt reactor.

"We would be able to see the refueling unless our inspectors are physically prevented from doing so," IAEA spokesman David Kyd said. "If they are denied access, that would be an indication something is going on."

Italian right-winger may become premier

ROME (AP) — Right-wing leader Gianfranco Fini should be considered as a possible future premier since breaking with his neo-fascist past, his main ally said yesterday.

Former Premier Silvio Berlusconi suggested he could someday support Fini's efforts to form a government if their conservative coalition has control of parliament.

"The time is not yet ready, but you can foresee the possibility that a member of the National Alliance or even Fini could assume responsibility of the government," Berlusconi said during a television interview.

Berlusconi said Fini's declarations against neo-

fascism were "very important."

In January, Fini formally separated the right-wing National Alliance from the Italian Social Movement, the heirs to dictator Benito Mussolini's fascist regime. Fini also has denounced anti-foreigner violence and other acts linked to right-wing extremists.

Berlusconi was widely criticized for giving National Alliance members cabinet seats in his government, which collapsed in December.

Berlusconi has pushed for Premier Lamberto Dini to step down and clear the way for new elections. Dini was selected as a politically neutral premier to succeed Berlusconi.



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National liberation

PESSAH celebrates religious faith, historic events, and seasonal rebirth. But the holiday's predominant theme is national liberation. This is probably why it has become the more widely celebrated of the three "pilgrimage" holidays. According to a survey published yesterday, 90 percent of Israeli Jews, a large majority of whom consider themselves "secular," celebrate the Seder.

At a time when terrorist organizations masquerading as "liberation" movements claim that this land has been usurped by Jews, it may be helpful to remember that the Jewish liberation movement was the first of its kind in recorded history. It was more than 3,200 years ago that Jews laid claim to the Land of Israel. Throughout these three millennia only Jews — alone among the peoples of the world — have inhabited this country without interruption, only they have always considered it their home, and only they have made Jerusalem their capital.

That even today, after 100 years of political Zionism, Israelis raise questions about the Jewish right to the Land of Israel is a measure of the

damage long centuries of exile have inflicted on the national psyche. That both personal safety and national security are still a prime concern is a measure of the hatred which still animates Israel's neighbors. And that there are those who still hope to wipe out the sovereign Jewish presence in the region is a measure of the national task which lies ahead.

But it should take no more than a moment at the Seder table to realize that nothing can match the life force and resilience of the Jewish people. There may be tragic irony in that attacks on Jews have increased in the midst of a peace drive, and it is a sad commentary on human conduct that Israel's outstretched hand is met with explosives.

But what the Jewish people have endured and survived in their long history dwarfs today's threats. And when the terrorists and the dictators of today are remembered only as an ugly footnote to history, Jews will sit around the Seder table and recount the tale of liberation with traditional, irrepressible gusto and an infinite faith in their future.

Harvest of hate

THE seeds of international weakness are close to yielding a harvest of all-out war in former Yugoslavia. Relations between the United Nations and the Serbs of Bosnia have plummeted alarmingly in just a few days. The Serbian military pours scorn on NATO warnings and blatantly threatens the peacekeepers as if they were an enemy combat force.

UN commander Lt.-Gen. Rupert Smith protested to the Serbs after they shelled Sarajevo this week in gross violation both of the cease-fire and the city's status as a UN-protected safe area. Smith also reminded them that NATO was on standby to defend the status of Sarajevo. Bosnian Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic treated the protest with the contempt the UN and NATO can now expect for their spineless appeasement of the combatants in this war.

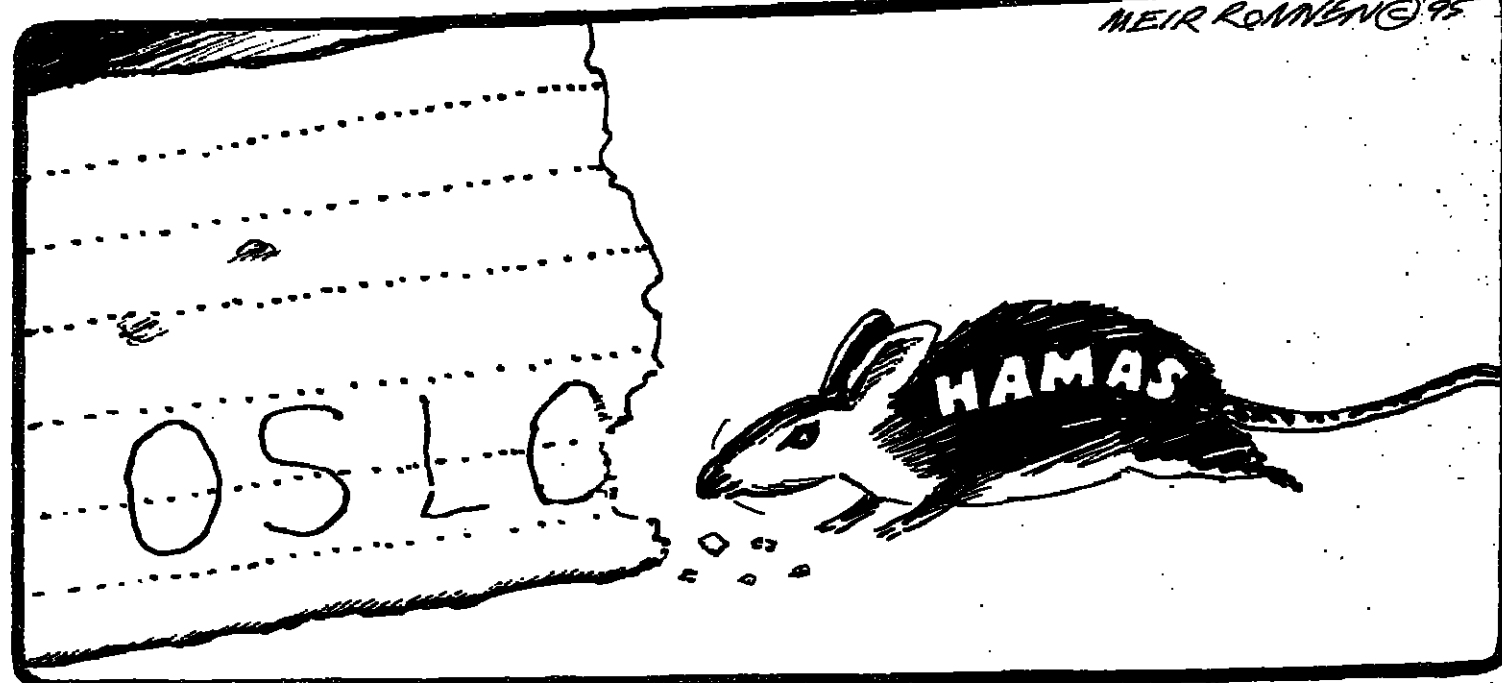
Mladic even scolded Smith like an errant schoolboy for using "impermissible tactless language" — obviously more unacceptable than the shelling and killing of Sarajevo civilians. The Serbs withdrew all cooperation, blocked UN fuel convoys, refused to meet the UN commander, and kept Sarajevo airport closed — refusing even to let the peace envoys from the five-nation international Contact Group come in for talks.

While the current anti-UN arrogance is totally Serbian, it must be noted that the blame for the crumbling truce rests squarely on the Bosnian Moslem government. Its army shot holes in the cease-fire last month with a surprise twin-pronged offensive that won strategic high

ground outside Sarajevo. The four-month cease-fire, arranged by US mediator Jimmy Carter in January, was meant to give time for a more permanent arrangement to end the war. In fact, it should have been in the Bosnian Moslems' interest to ensure that it worked, since it had been hoped the Contact Group could persuade the Serbs to cede some conquests for a peace settlement. The truce was already shaky because it failed to include Croatian Serbs, who continued a cross-border war in the northern Bosnian enclave of Bihać.

Nonetheless, it was clearly in the Bosnian government's interest to project an image of "good guys" by keeping the truce scrupulously and allowing the Serbs to take international flak for violations. Instead, the Moslems opted for the classic short-term error of using a cease-fire as a breathing space to consolidate forces and launch a surprise offensive. While Serbian harassment of the UN forces may be contemptible, in the context of war they cannot be blamed for retaliating against the Moslem attacks. It is a little late for the Bosnian Moslems to blame the UN for "not responding to Serbian aggression."

The fact is, the world powers long ago failed to impose order on the incorrigible warmongers of Bosnia, and the electorates of those countries have long grown weary of worrying about their endangered troops in this ungrateful country. As in Somalia, the day cannot be far off when the militias of Bosnia will be left alone to go on dragging their country back to the Stone Age.



The train stops at Gaza

MOSHE ZAK

IN a recent interview with *The Sunday Times*, Shimon Peres admitted that he never imagined the day would come when he would be soliciting funds for the PLO.

In the same week, his deputy, Yossi Beilin, tried to persuade AIPAC not to criticize the Palestinian Authority publicly for Palestinian terrorist attacks, so as not to place obstacles in the way of Arafat's attempts to obtain American aid.

And what did Arafat offer Israel in return this week, after the two attacks near Kfar Darom and Netzarim? A phone call to Prime Minister Rabin, expressing sympathy for the victims' families, and announcements of the arrest of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists in Gaza.

These arrests remind one of the man who said "It's easy to give up smoking — I've done it hundreds of times."

In the last six months, the Palestinian Authority has announced the arrest of hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists — but almost all were released as soon as indignation in Israel dissipated after each attack.

It is difficult to take seriously the announcement that the Palestinian Police has arrested terrorists, when the Associated Press simultaneously reports mass celebrations in the Nuseirat refugee camp honoring the suicide bomber who blew up the bus full of IDF soldiers. The PA police did not intervene; nor did it put a stop to the celebratory volleys fired by Islamic Jihad members, in defiance of Arafat. And the

next day, PLO officials held a symposium in Gaza together with Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders.

The day before the Kfar Darom explosion, Arafat proudly announced that suicide attacks against Israeli targets had been prevented. He was even able to report the recent arrest of a number of youths who had been trained in one of the mosques to carry out attacks against Israel.

He knew all the details, even that the youths had been put into

for Arafat's adversaries, strengthening their claim that terror is the only way to squeeze concessions out of Israel.

But Arafat lost his judgment and maneuvering ability in the Arab camp long ago.

IT IS true that Arafat is trying to soothe Israel, because of Israel's threatened shelving of talks with him while Gaza serves as a refuge for terrorists.

The theory that the threat to

Israel cannot extend the PA's rule in order to widen the empire of terrorism

graves to accustom them to the idea of dying. But he was unable to tell Israel anything about the plan of the dual bombing planned for the next day.

This arouses the suspicion that even if Arafat didn't know about the actual plan, one of his people might have thought that publicizing the prevention of other attacks might reduce the alertness of the Israeli security forces.

It is also possible that someone on the Palestinian side supposed that the two sites attacked would be easy targets for political leverage.

In practice, Arafat shouldn't want Israel to evacuate Kfar Darom or Netzarim under the pressure of Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide attacks. Israeli evacuation in the wake of terrorist incidents would score points

delay the second stage of the Oslo agreement plays into the hands of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, does not help the PLO leader. Yet if Israel doesn't exert pressure on the PA, Arafat won't be in any hurry to disarm the extremists.

Sanctions need not take the form of an actual breaking-off of talks, which is liable to anger the US and other countries. They can be expressed by slowing down the pace of concessions to Arafat. Discontinuing the talks might well have been important to "take the steam out of Israel's anger, but the same end can be achieved by handling the talks in a more sophisticated manner.

There is no need to reach crisis point on the subject of IDF redeployment in Arab population centers in Judea and Samaria, but the issues of elections or the num-

ber of PA council members can be spun out.

Arafat will soon take the hint that, in spite of the foreign minister's promise that agreement will be reached by July 1, there will in fact be no agreement until terror is halted, whether or not the talks continue.

The PLO chairman condemned this week's murderous attacks in the Gaza Strip. But the absurd additions with which he spices up his condemnations cast doubt on his sincerity.

His claim that the operations of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad are assisted by Jewish extremists and... the US, and the ludicrous story that the Beit Lid terrorists trained at an Israeli army base near Rafiah, indicate that the chairman's claim that he is opposed to terrorism has to be taken with a very large grain of salt.

The political process with the PLO which began at Oslo has long been off-track. The negotiations train got derailed when Arafat failed to keep his promise to rescind the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant which call for the destruction of Israel.

The train got stuck when the PA failed to implement clause 18 in the Cairo agreement on the prevention of terror, crime, and hostile acts against Israel and Israelis.

Israel must make it clear to the PLO that the train will not start going again until Palestinian terror stops. Israel cannot extend the PA's jurisdiction in order to widen the empire of terrorism.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Ofek 3 and security needs

SHLOMO GAZIT

WHEN I was head of IDF Intelligence some 16 years ago, I was asked to submit the equipment needs of the Intelligence Corps for the coming decade. I included a spy satellite on our shopping list, and so I wasn't surprised at the eyebrows that were raised — some in wonder, some in scorn — at such an impractical request.

If published reports are true, the launch of Ofek 3 on April 5 put Israel's first "blue-and-white" spy satellite into orbit.

In the absence of authoritative data, we may only conclude that this was a very important step in realizing our ability to gather intelligence from our own satellites, without depending on the good will of a third party, which will always have its own agenda and political motivations.

A spy satellite provides a real-time visual picture of otherwise almost inaccessible areas and targets. These satellites also have two great advantages over routine air reconnaissance: they eliminate the risk to pilots and planes; and they do not violate the sovereign airspace of neighboring countries, especially those with which we have peaceful relations.

At the same time, we must not make the mistake of thinking that spy satellites can solve all our intelligence-gathering problems. Their sensitive lenses can supply visual data, but they cannot provide vitally important informa-

tion on the intentions and decisions of our Arab neighbors.

A look back at the period preceding the surprise Egyptian-Syrian attack on Yom Kippur 1973 shows that our visual information was almost complete. The erroneous evaluation stemmed from the lack of sufficient intelligence on the enemy's intentions.

Moreover, a sophisticated adversary will quickly determine when the Israeli satellite will be overhead and, if he wants to, can

settlement, heaven help us if we make the mistake of thinking that we can dispense with our ground stations.

We must tenaciously insist on keeping them — or at least some of them — in Israeli hands.

Political accommodations and peace agreements will not reduce their importance. On the contrary, this will only increase.

Even though we do not know the final borders to be determined in peace settlements, we

Spy satellites aren't the whole answer to intelligence-gathering problems

hide his activities by advancing under cover of darkness or concealment, or even initiate false moves to deceive the satellite's eye.

A SPY satellite is thus no substitute for electronic warning stations on the ground. In addition to the multitude of information in various fields which such stations can provide, they are a most important source of intelligence about intentions.

When we discuss security arrangements on the Golan Heights with the Syrians, and embark on similar negotiations with the Palestinians regarding a final-status

well know that we shall have to concede strategic assets on the ground. In the new situation that will be created, intelligence data and the ability to receive timely warnings will become even more important.

Nor should we fall victim to two additional delusions:

We often hear proposals that Israeli warning stations be manned by foreign technicians. We must resolutely reject this idea. We can never be completely confident that third-party representatives will not apply their own considerations in transmitting real-time intelligence.

At most, we could agree to a

compromise which would save the Arab side's sense of pride and allow the forces of a third-party to secure the warning stations, without any involvement in intelligence gathering.

We could also undertake that those who man these stations will not wear uniforms; and we could suggest to the other side that, if it wishes, it could place similar warning stations within Israeli territory.

We must also not be tempted to replace the electronic warning stations with airborne or orbiting electronic intelligence systems. I am not belittling the importance of these systems; they have served and still serve us quite effectively. But they can never be a full, reliable substitute for ground stations.

In the Ofek 3 era, we must look to our needs and problems over the horizon. The better and more complete our intelligence-gathering becomes, the more the nervousness of our decision-makers will diminish, as will the danger of needing to resort to military deterrent measures or pre-emptive strikes.

As we approach peace settlements, we must insist on two capabilities: acquiring intelligence warnings, and strategically deterring a potential enemy.

The writer is a senior research fellow of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNDIVIDED JERUSALEM

Sir, — A group of Christian leaders recently issued a statement urging that the Clinton administration press Israel to limit its presence in Jerusalem. The letter states the church leaders' concern that the administration is "failing to recognize... Palestinian rights in Jerusalem."

Let me assure you on behalf of our 1.5 million members that this statement does not represent the sentiments of our organization nor, we believe, the beliefs of the millions of evangelical Christians in the US who cherish the security of the State of Israel as one of their top foreign policy concerns.

We fully support the policies of the Israeli government in Jerusalem and recognize the Holy City as the undivided capital of the State of Israel. We also sympathize with the paramount importance that the reunification of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty has for all Israelis, as well as for Jews the world over. As Christians, we also greatly appreciate Israel's long-standing policy to ensure complete freedom of worship in Jerusalem.

The recent statement by Christian leaders criticizing Israel does not represent the depth of our admiration for Israel insofar as it neglects to praise Israel's steadfast commitment to the peace process. Israel's devotion to the peace process has continued despite the extraordinary risks it is assuming and despite an

ongoing campaign of terror that has caused many Israeli fatalities and is clearly a deliberate attempt to undermine peace.

The Christian leaders' message that Israel's best friend, the US, should support redividing the Holy City in fact reduced the chances of reaching a peace agreement. The call for a "shared city" encourages some among the Palestinians to persist in unrealistic expectations regarding Jerusalem and it undermines the confidence of the people of Israel that they can take risks for peace because no Israeli government could ever repatriate or abridge Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Therefore, we hope that the US will take steps to move our embassy to Jerusalem. Israel is the only sovereign nation in the world in which the US embassy is not located in the city regarded by the host nation as its capital. Moreover, we believe that the course of the peace negotiations would be assisted by such a move. It would affirm the conviction of the US that realistic negotiations must be premised on the principle that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Such an affirmation is the most realistic basis on which an agreement on the final status of Jerusalem can be achieved.

RALPH E. REED, Jr.
Executive Director,
Christian Coalition
Chesapeake, Virginia

HUTZPA

Sir, — The planned celebration of the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem as a Jewish Capital is an attempt to steal the holy city from other faiths, the Palestinian Authority said yesterday. The alleged celebrations represent an unprecedented robbery for the whole world to see... Israel is not entitled to nominate itself as the only inheritor of thousands of years of varied cultures and religions," is said in a statement (*The Jerusalem Post*, March 29).

This from members of a group who have committed "an unprecedented robbery" of the top of the Temple Mount — "dominating" (themselves) as the only inheritors of the Mount and refusing to allow Christians and Jews to pray or even to read the Bible there. Although Israeli law guarantees all faiths the right to worship at their holy sites, the Waqf (Moslem leadership on the Mount) has Christians and Jews who pray there thrown off the Mount.

To the PA I would like to say: You can complain about the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem when you are willing to share the top of the Temple Mount with other religions — allowing other faiths to pray at their holy site — and when you allow the rebuilding of the Temple on its hallowed ground. But until then, don't criticize the Jews! You cry for justice, but are unwilling to give justice in return.

The law guaranteeing religious freedom carries a large fine. All are responsible to insist that laws be followed. Perhaps those who are refused the right to pray on the Mount should bring suit against the Waqf for violating their lawful rights.

NORMA ARCHOLD
Jerusalem. (A gentle Christian)

PEN FRIENDS

G. E. BRUNELLE of 2302 20th Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 4C2, Canada, is a retired man who wishes to exchange Canadian postage stamps for Israeli stamps.

INFORMED CRITICISM

Sir, — I came on aliyah more than 20 years ago to live as a Jew among Jews in a Jewish state. More and more these days, attacks are being leveled at the Jewish religion, Judaism and religious Jews. What is more, these attacks are being made by people who generally don't even know what Judaism and the religion is about. "Do's and don'ts" is all they know about it, and very few of these.

To my mind, this is the approach

of the non-intellectual or fool. Before criticizing something, the right thing is to know what you are talking about.

The "attackers" are supposedly Jewish. Let them study their roots and ancestry — back to Abraham — and when they know what Judaism stands for, then let them attack if they still feel the same way. They must, however, learn without bias.

MONTY POGODA
Efrat

The right to act – now

WE often hear government spokesmen saying: "Arab terrorism doesn't threaten Israel's existence; the problem is simply one of personal security."

But it is a false assertion. In the past 50 years, Palestinian terrorism has generated most of the wars in our region.

Even if the problem were only one of individual safety, it would be very serious. Every victim is a tragedy. Every injury means terrible suffering. And the number of the dead and wounded has been growing, especially following the signing of the Oslo agreement.

Since this government was formed in June 1992, Arab terrorist attacks in Israel and abroad (including those against Jews and Jewish and Israeli institutions in Britain, Panama and Argentina) have taken the lives of 375 individuals, soldiers and civilians. Another 1,416 have been wounded. All this, without appropriate response, either political or military.

War's inevitable casualties are appalling. But when people are killed as the result of political light-headedness, that's far more terrible; especially when the carnage accompanies a peace process.

After this week's atrocities we must tell the government: "Don't say 'We didn't know.' You did know. All of it was known, all expected."

Don't dare to intimate that "Arafat promised..." The intelligence services warned you. Ex-

perienced military men cautioned you. All for nothing.

Don't go on spreading the lie that Arafat has prevented other attacks in recent weeks. It's a fabrication, and you know it.

Don't praise Arafat for ostensibly arresting 10-year-old potential suicide bombers, while allowing 20-year-olds to kill.

Stop publishing those falsehoods about "two Hamas cells

There is no peace process, only a terror process

left here, another unit there." You know about the smuggling of hundreds – no, thousands – of weapons into the Gaza Strip, and tons of explosives. And all this under your very eyes, left half-shut, winking at Arafat.

Don't dare trumpet Arafat's "condolences" to the victims' families. You've long known about the joy he displays whenever Jews are killed. Stop telling us that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad are the "enemies of peace." We're sick of hearing this travesty.

AND STOP inciting and misleading. Enough of telling us that "the victims are soldiers who went to defend settlements." This "blood dance" with Arafat over the settlements must stop.

Don't let those disgusting Palestinian mobs howl with joy at the murder sites, as they watch our casualties being evacuated. If they refuse to disperse, open fire. Surely there's a limit to everything.

Stop talking to us on television with a phony calm visage, while suppressing hysteria. Stop admiring the "sophistication" of the terror groups which carried out two concurrent attacks. Whatever happened to our "small, clever army"?

Don't dare go on saying "It can't be done!" It can. We can open separate roads, immediately. And it's been explained to you dozens of times, by those who know, how not to travel on the problematic roads. The problem can be solved in a matter of days. And the suicide terrorists, too, can be fought – but you have chosen to do nothing about it.

Since your shortcomings have led to such a grave deterioration in the situation, what we must do now is go into the Gaza Strip in a one-time move, in an action of the scope circumstances demand: to wipe out the terrorists, collect their weapons and explosives, and arrest the inciters.

There is no peace process, only a terror process. The Oslo agreement is no more. From now on, we must reserve the right, when necessary, to carry out preventive action and hot pursuit. We must regain control of security. Immediately.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.



A bird sang at Bergen-Belsen

FLORA KALMAN

FIFTY years ago, in April 1945, the war in Europe was still going strong when the British army liberated Bergen-Belsen, the concentration camp where I was a prisoner.

When the British arrived, thousands and thousands of bodies were lying piled up in the camp grounds. The crematorium lacked the capacity to keep up with the great number of inmates who were dying daily. The International Red Cross took over the task of organizing the sick, setting up emergency hospitals, and taking care of those who were still on their feet.

After weeks of severe illness, my weight was down to 36 kg. Through some sense of curiosity that persisted in my dulled sensibilities, I managed to get up to witness the sad task to which our former captors, the SS guards, had been assigned.

Under the supervision of the British army, they were sorting and loading corpses onto trucks, and burying them in massive common graves.

The guards had to work quickly, since it was getting hot and the air was thick with infectious germs. The danger of contamination was critical.

I stood there while the guards did their grim work. Perhaps I would recognize the body of my sister, or of my cousin, who had died a few weeks earlier.

Can I honestly say that I hoped to see members of my family among the corpses?

No, I did not hope. I didn't even feel.

Was I happy when the British liberated us? No, I wasn't capable of excitement, or relief, or joy.

Was I, then, overwhelmed with grief or despair at those mounds and mounds of corpses? I wasn't even capable of sadness.

At that moment I looked into

Objectively, I knew that the sun was bright and warm, that the birds had returned. But I couldn't feel the warmth.

I heard the birds' song as squawks, without melody. I couldn't respond to their bright, colorful plumage. My senses were as dead as though I myself lay among the corpses.

Suddenly, I found myself looking at the SS guards.

I knew it was hot, because they had taken off their jackets. With-

the face of a German – a murderer, a torturer – who had been conditioned to think of a Jew as less than human, as something akin to an insect.

I understood that, for him, the world had turned upside down. He wiped his forehead again, and as he reached forward to pick up his shovel, I felt sorry for him.

Suddenly I pulled myself back to my own reality. How in God's name could I feel compassion for my parents' murderers, for their

quering bitterness. I was alive and fully human because I could feel compassion. Even here, even now. Even for a German.

Suddenly, I felt the sun warm on my skin. I heard a bird call, clear and melodic, above me. I felt blood coursing through my veins. My brain felt clear. I understood that I had a life ahead, and a fate. I was part of the human race.

Then I realized that the young guard was looking at me too, with an expression of surprise, and awe.

Perhaps he was surprised that I had survived. But the awe? Had he been watching as all these emotions washed over me?

How supremely ironic that I, who had been totally void of feeling, should have felt emotion again after a moment of compassion for one of our killers.

I became acutely aware of the music floating in the air. Quickly, I turned and walked away.

The writer, who was born in Czechoslovakia, now lives in Upper Nazareth. After the war she, her husband and their only child were trapped in Communist Romania for 16 years. They were allowed to emigrate to the free world in 1962. After 30 years of silence, she began writing articles and short stories, and speaking about her experiences in the camps.

The worst of both worlds

IS every minister in business for himself?

There is no doubt about Environment Minister Yossi Sarid's sincerity in urging the removal of Kfar Darom and Netzerim, the settlements located near the sites of this week's suicide bombings. He may even be right. However, there is also no doubt of Sarid's total disregard of the rules of collective responsibility.

Now, if that fundamental notion of parliamentary government makes any sense, surely it bars public declarations by ministers contradicting the declared policy of the government in which they are members. Because of this week's tragic events, attention was focused on the content of Sarid's proposal. However, there is a constitutional problem in the very fact of his public statements, which has little to do with their content.

Sarid isn't the only loner in the Rabin government. Instead of collective responsibility, there is a collection of loners, headed by the greatest loner of them all, Rabin himself. During a cabinet meeting only a few days ago, he told Interior Minister Uzi Baram that his visits to the northern border were none of Baram's bloody business.

Asked why he smoked so much, Charles Baudelaire, the French symbolist poet, replied, "To put something between me and the world."

The Rabin smoke screen seems to separate the prime minister from his cabinet. Golda Meir (also a heavy smoker) transacted important government business with key ministers in her kitchen. Rabin has the cabinet, wives included, over for dinner. This may be superior to Golda's kitchen from the culinary, but not the political, point of view.

When a Labor minister goes his own way, without regard for collective responsibility, he may well be looking after his ratings,

with cabinet members. Sheves's relations with Rabin have also apparently soured.

In our hybrid parliamentary-presidential system, Rabin may have been cursed with the worst of both worlds. Although he is prime minister in a government whose mandate comes from a parliamentary majority, he does not head a team that shares collective responsibility.

Although he is a quasi-president, elected to party leadership in personal primaries, he lacks the powers of an elected president. He cannot act in the fashion of John F. Kennedy, who, according to Koenig, "largely dispensed with cabinet meetings, holding that the entire body of secretaries should be assembled only for matters of full breadth and significance."

Both the adoption of primaries and the coming direct election of the prime minister guarantee that we will continue to have a hybrid parliamentary-presidential system. As a consequence, the status of the cabinet will continue to be problematical.

In the American presidential system, the president chooses his cabinet after the issues of party and national leadership have been resolved by the voters. In our hybrid system, the cabinet itself becomes a forum in which the competition for leadership continues.

Given the institutional flaws, the achievement of Yitzhak Rabin is quite remarkable. He has, for better or for worse, made the most difficult decisions any prime minister could be called upon to make and has generally carried them out. He has done this without the support of a disciplined party, on which parliamentary government depends, or the constitutional authority of an elected president.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

with primaries in the offing. Sarid, a minister representing Labor's coalition partner, Meretz, is as sincere about his bid for leadership in his own party as he is in his policy pronouncements.

But apart from the question of personal style, as in the case of Rabin, one of personal interest, as may often be the case with regard to particular ministers, institutional factors are also at work.

WE ARE on our way to a modified form of presidential government with the direct election of the prime minister, and we have a prime minister with a presidential philosophy of government. There is a basic contradiction between the function of a cabinet in a parliamentary government and its role in a presidential system.

The cabinet is not an intrinsic part of presidential government. It is not even envisaged in the American constitution. George Washington invented it as a convenient forum for airing opinions. "It exists by custom and functions by presidential initiative," according to Prof. Louis W. Koenig, "and is therefore largely what the chief executive chooses to make of it."

If Rabin had his way, he would probably like to work with his ministers the way a chief of staff works with his field commanders. Shimon Sheves, director-general of the prime minister's office, set up a staff organization, named by non-politicians loyal to the prime minister, as the channel for communication between the ministries and the prime minister. This hardly helped his popularity

Rabin's cabinet is a gaggle of loners

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The Peace Crisis

AN UPDATE

Pessah, Sunday, April 16 (16 Nissan), at 5 p.m.

At Beit Knesset Hanassi
24 Rehov Ussishkin,
Jerusalem

Rabbi Nachum Rabinowitz,
Rosh Yeshivat Birkat Moshe,
Ma'ale Adumim

Benny Begin,
Member of Knesset

Rebbetzin Shifrah Blass,
Neve Tzuf

Rabbi Shalom Gold,
Chairman

At Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel
6 Rehov Wolfson,
Jerusalem

Rabbi Eliezer Waldman,
Rosh Yeshivat Nir,
Kiryat Arba

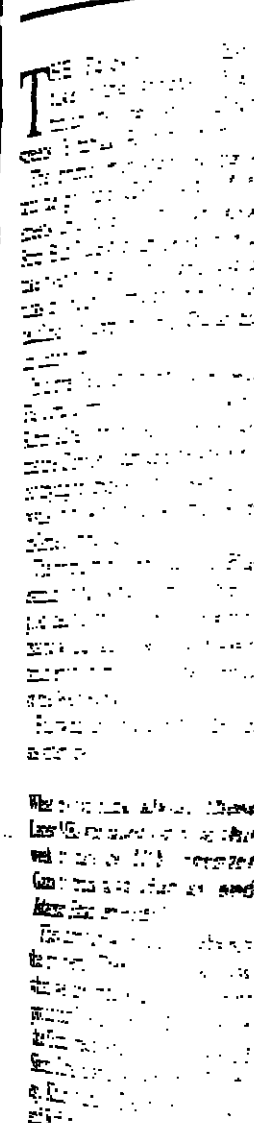
Yossi Ben-Aharon,
former director-general of the
Prime Minister's Office

Rebbetzin Vicky Berglass,
Neve Aliza

Rabbi Meyer Fendel,
Chairman

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FRIDAY, APRIL 14
Rabin
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Prime Minister
tells David
July 1 deadline
autonomy deal
success in peace



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NEWS IN FOCUS

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1995

Rabin to PA: The streets are yours

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin tells David Makovsky the July 1 deadline for expanding autonomy depends on Arafat's success in preventing terrorism

THE Palestinians should take to the streets - Palestinian police and Gaza's streets, Yitzhak Rabin said.

The prime minister is proud that he got the IDF out of the streets and alleys of the Gaza Strip. But Palestinian police must take over to prevent terrorist attacks in order to meet the July 1 deadline for expanding Palestinian autonomy.

In a pre-Pessah interview with *The Jerusalem Post* this week, Rabin added that he is pleased that the Clinton administration is not trying to impose its own proposals on how to break the Syrian-Israeli impasse.

The prime minister said a Palestinian state would not be a good idea "at this stage," adding that he would like to see "a Palestinian entity in most of the areas of the West Bank."

Following are excerpts from his interview.

Can the July 1 Israel-PLO mutually agreed-upon deadline to expand Palestinian autonomy be met, despite the killings this week?

We are aiming for July to reach an agreement about the implementation of Phase Two of the DOP [Oslo Declaration of Principles] vis-à-vis the West Bank. But we have made it clear that the implementation is dependent on [PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat] fulfilling his commitments in a much more effective way ... in coping with this kind of terrorism which is carried [out] against us by fanatic religious, Islamic terrorist groups.

They [the Moslem fundamentalists] are well organized. They have got their own fanatically religious clergy. They have public support and they are determined, they are tough. To fight them, it's much more difficult than we experienced in the past.

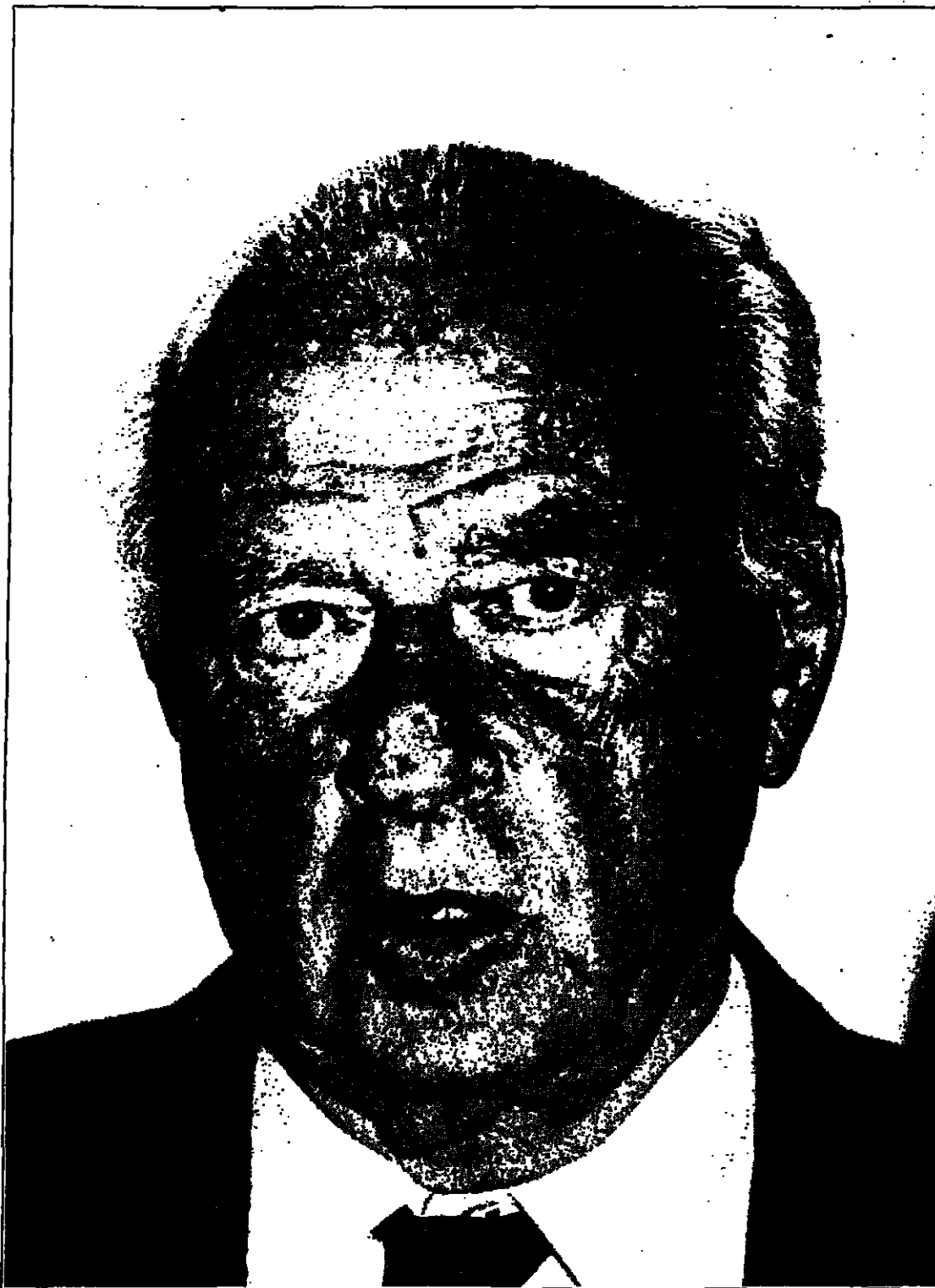
What do you think about those Labor MKs who called on you this week to have the IDF reenter Gaza to track down Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists?

They don't know enough about the problems. They don't know what we are engaged in. I am proud that I took [the IDF] out of the Gaza streets and the alleys of Shati, Jabalya and Nuseirat, Bur-eij, Khan Yunis, Deir el-Balah and Rafiah.

How do you assess what Arafat has done to go after Islamic militants following this week's attack?

It is not enough. [He must do] it with determination, strength and [as part of a] continuous effort.

What we ask him is: one, to make sure that there is only one armed law-enforcement [body]; two, [to ensure that] others will not carry arms, except individ-



Yitzhak Rabin celebrates the IDF exodus from the Gaza Strip and is pleased that the US is not trying to impose its own proposal for breaking the Syrian-Israeli impasse. (Ephraim Kishon)

nals who will be given permission; three, [to] search in an effective way after those who [either] instigate, ... organize, protect [or] carry out the terror; to take them out of the area ei-

ther by courts or administrative detention.

Since the terrible accident of the [Dizengoff] bus in Tel Aviv last October, we detained 2,700 in the West Bank for interroga-

tion; administrative detention. If he [Arafat] does that, the future will be good.

Are you thinking about establishing a Palestinian state in Gaza

even in the interim period as a way of avoiding expanding autonomy to the rest of the territories?

If it would be possible, I don't see any problem in it. I don't believe that any Palestinian will accept it.... They [Palestinians] say to us: "You signed the DOP, so implement it."

You say you oppose a larger Palestinian state. Why?

I would like to see next to Israel a Palestinian entity in most of the areas of the West Bank ... most of Gaza, not a return to the pre-Six Day War lines. First and foremost, a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.... In the long run I would like to see some sort of working together as a system, Jordan, Israel as a state, Palestine as an entity, less than a state.

And a Palestinian state?

I don't believe, at this stage, it would be a good idea.

How do you rationalize telling mothers of IDF soldiers why their sons need to protect isolated settlements in Gaza during the interim period when these settlements don't enhance security nor are they part of borders that you see are needed for Israel?

I'm not against uprooting of settlements in a context of a permanent agreement.

Beginning with January 1, 1994, 21 Israelis got killed in the Gaza Strip: 17 were uniformed soldiers, border police, police, [and] four [were] civilians. None of them [were] settlers in this area, which means that for the protection of the settlers, these soldiers got killed.

[It] might be by coincidence that one of the settlers was on the bus, but basically the bus [that was attacked] on Sunday morning [carried] mainly soldiers. And it creates a problem. The possibility of ending the life of [a] settlement is part of the permanent solution.

Are you against the US offering its own proposal to break the impasse between Israel and Syria?

I am thankful and grateful that both President [Bill] Clinton and Secretary [of State Warren] Christopher have not tried to come up with an American proposal.

I don't think it would be advisable. I am not supporting it. They have to go to try to convince them [Syria] [and] us, but by no

means to come up with an American paper. For me, it would be seen as an imposition.

Can you explain the impasse on the equality of security arrangements?

The problem today in discussions on the security arrangements is that [Syrian President Hafez Assad] wants formulations in which he demands equality, including geography [for limited-forces zones on each side of the Golan]. This is something that I cannot agree to.

Is it realistic to believe that you can have talks about the standing army in Syria?

I believe that this has to be an approach, not as part of the agreement, because no one would like for someone else to decide for him the size of his armed forces. I wouldn't like the Syrians to decide that for me.

So this can only be worked out regionally?

Or [by] tacit understandings.

What can be done to elevate the level of debate in this country?

I believe it is related to two developments. One is ratings in the media. Look at the way and what words the media uses to describe the situation. It [news] has become a business, and the best-selling item is blood or something that looks terrible or sensational.

When one student in a Jerusalem school was killed, not killed, about two years ago, I compared the size of the headline to the size of the one announcing the outbreak of the Six Day War, and it was three times bigger.

Look at the television, the papers, the color pictures - they show every drop of blood of Israeli victims. Second, the [election] primary process is a way for [politicians] to become known. This changes the level of the political debate in Israel, and it involves many factors and individuals. I don't know the solution.

Hag Sameah, Mr. Prime Minister.

I wish all the people of Israel a happy Pessah. We should remember how long it took us to go from slavery to freedom. Also, it's a festival of spring. Spring means hope.

Let's speak through our tradition and look forward to a better future.

Priestly Blessing *in the presence of a mass congregation* ברכת כהנים המונית

will take place during Pessah, on the third day of Hol Hamoed, at the Western Wall

* Shoharit - 8:45 a.m. * Birkat Kohanim of Shoharit - 9:30 a.m. * Mussaf - 10:15 a.m. * Birkat Kohanim of Mussaf - 10:45 a.m.

This notice is dedicated to the memory of Reb Asher, son of Reb Ya'acov Herzog ז"ל, who died on 29 Sivan 5749.

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Sala Art Activity Center
Cinema
Until 4.5
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Director: Stephen Frears
Comedy about an Irish family

Hal Hartley Marathon
showing
Trust
(1990, 96 mins.)
The Unbelievable Truth
(1989, 98 mins.)
and a preview of
Amateur
(1994, 105 mins.)
For times of screening consult local press.

Visiting Hours
Museum
On 14-15.4 closed; 20.4 until 2.00 p.m.
Sun. 10.4 until 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.
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Wed., 10.4 until 10.00 p.m.
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Fri., 10.4 until 10.00 p.m.
Museum Shop open 10.4 until 10.00 p.m.
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Helena Rubinstein Pavilion
for Contemporary Art
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4 Dabney St., Tel. 6919155

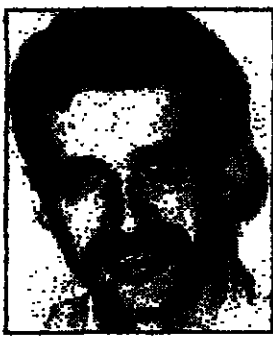
These Six Sons will not be home for the Seder.



Zachary Baumel
13 seders



Tzvi Feldman
13 seders



Yehuda Katz
13 seders



Rachamim Alsheikh
10 seders



Yossi Fink
10 seders



Ron Arad
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The US may put a lid on dual containment

Iran's hot pursuit of nuclear weapons has steamed up the Clinton administration and the Republicans, Dore Gold writes

WHEN the Clinton administration first announced its policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran in May 1993, it clearly had no intention of treating both countries identically.

The initial purveyor of dual containment was Martin Indyk, the new US ambassador to Israel. In his previous position, as special assistant to the president on the National Security Council, he declared that the Iraqi regime was "criminal" and "irredeemable."

But US officials left the door open to a US-Iranian dialogue. Washington had a problem with Iranian behavior, but was not seeking to overthrow the Iranian regime.

The administration's distinction made sense. Iraq was under UN sanctions after it invaded and occupied a neighboring state; it had also engaged in genocidal policies against its Kurdish population; and it unquestionably violated its commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty through a proven, clandestine nuclear-weapons program.

Now, nearly two years since dual containment was first announced, US policy toward Iran seems to be hardening. President Bill Clinton issued an executive order barring the American oil company CONOCO, a subsidiary of Du Pont, from implementing a billion-dollar agreement with Iran, through a Dutch affiliate, to develop oil and gas resources on Sirri Island in the Persian Gulf.

There are increasing signs that all oil trade between Iran and American subsidiaries overseas will be cut off. And the administration is entering into a confrontation with Moscow over the latter's plan to complete Iran's

Bushehr nuclear reactor, which had been started by a German firm during the period of the shah.

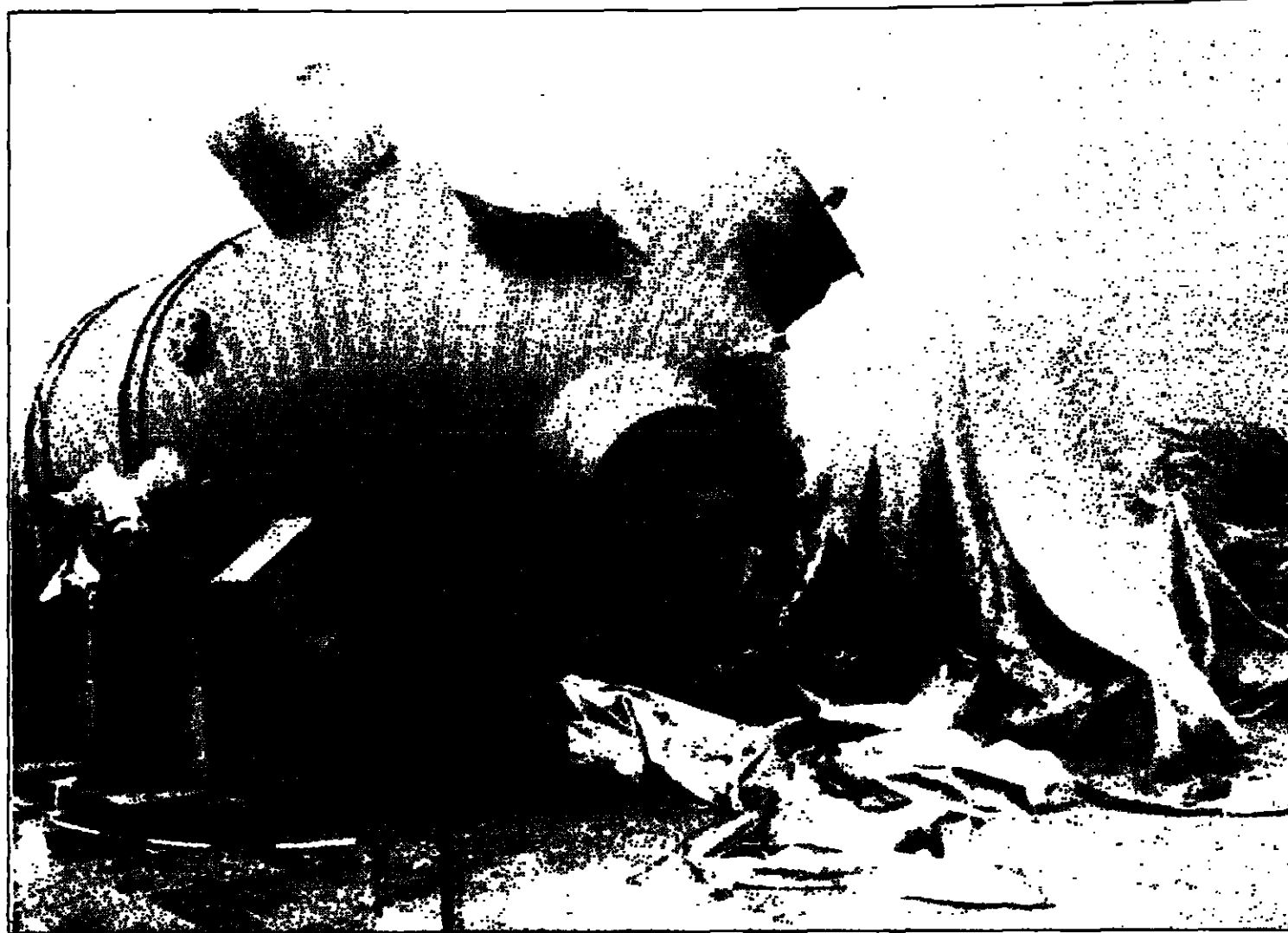
What happened to dual containment? Had it succeeded in modifying Iranian behavior? Or was the policy now changing because dual containment had been inadequate?

The Clinton administration had skillfully reduced the financial credit Iran could obtain from the international community. Neither the World Bank nor the International Monetary Fund is extending new credit to Iran. The Europeans have rescheduled Iranian loans rather than face a costly Iranian default, and Japan has recently shown greater responsiveness to American requests by holding up a half-billion-dollar loan to Tehran.

In this sense, dual containment was very different from the containment of the Soviet Union. The US did not erect a military alliance system to box in Iranian expansionism; it sought to dissuade friends from helping the Iranian regime in specific areas. But the policy focused on using economic instruments to narrow the freedom of action of the Iranian regime, without actually putting Iran under international quarantine.

One anonymous US official explained this aspect of the policy on January 20 to *The Washington Post*: "We're not against trade with Iran, but we are against concessionary trade, whenever they tend to pursue policies that we consider unacceptable - violence against the peace process, the development of chemical or nuclear weapons."

The administration also tried to change Iran's state-supported terrorism, subversion of pro-



These parts of a nuclear reactor, perhaps headed for military use in Iran, were seized at a Venice port in 1993. (AP)

Western regimes and domination of the Persian Gulf.

Iran countered by showing it still had considerable freedom of action. For example, from mid-October 1994 until last month, Iran massed military forces on the Persian Gulf island of Abu Musa, over which it has a territorial dispute with the United Arab Emirates.

American military spokesmen have estimated that the deployment of a Hawk antiaircraft battery and limited armor is a prelude to the eventual emplacement of Silkworm antiship missiles on Abu Musa, which would give Iran potential military

control over the Straits of Hormuz.

THE IRANIAN deal with CONOCO falls into a similar category. Since American trade sanctions with Iran ban direct Iranian oil imports into the US, American companies have been buying Iranian oil and selling it overseas. This hole in dual containment was tolerated, probably since it was assumed that if American companies did not buy Iranian oil, someone else would.

US purchases of Iranian oil increased from \$3.5 billion in 1993 to \$4.25b. in 1994 (even as American direct exports to Iran fell

from \$616 million to \$328m.). It seems Iran wanted to widen this hole in American policy by getting a US firm to develop its oil - including building wells and drilling for oil - and not just purchase it on the open market.

The imperfections of a carefully nuanced policy like dual containment would probably have remained in place if the CONOCO deal had never been made. The administration is now not only responding to CONOCO, but is also seeking to prevent any American foreign subsidiaries from even purchasing Iranian oil.

The focal point today of the

American-Iranian struggle is the nuclear dimension: the \$800 million Russian-Iranian agreement of January 8, 1995, for the supply of nuclear reactors. Last September, Clinton secured a commitment from President Boris Yeltsin that Russia would end its weapons sales to Iran after fulfilling existing contracts.

In theory, the supply of civilian reactors to Iran should not have posed a problem for US policy; the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to which Iran is a signatory, allows for the sharing of civilian nuclear technology as long as any nuclear fuel supplied is under international safeguards.

In this context, Russia and Iran could slip through the cracks of dual containment with a seemingly legitimate international arrangement.

They could point to North Korea, where the US is supporting the supply of new, safeguarded nuclear reactors that are under the inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for civilian purposes, as part of its settlement of their nuclear dispute.

The US is not accepting this argument. On January 20, Secretary of State Warren Christopher stated at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University: "Iran is engaged in a crash effort to develop nuclear weapons."

The administration is also feeling the heat over Iran from its Republican opposition. House Speaker Newt Gingrich has called for a cutoff of American aid to Russia if the Iranian nuclear deal is not canceled. New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato has been calling for comprehensive trade sanctions against Iran.

Dual containment was a subtle concept. It sought to alter Iranian policies while keeping the door open to an Iranian-American dialogue; and it sought to confront Iraq, without ending up with Iranian hegemony in the Gulf. Iran probed all the holes in that policy and is now likely to face a firmer American response.

An Indian defense official commented after the Gulf war that you don't go to war against the US unless you have nuclear weapons. In other words, Iranian hegemony in the Persian Gulf is ultimately dependent on Tehran's obtaining a nuclear capability.

The US can ultimately tolerate many problematic aspects of Iranian behavior, but it cannot be apathetic to the nuclear dimension. For this reason, the American confrontation with Iran is likely to intensify in the months ahead.

The writer is the director of the US Foreign and Defense Policy Project - Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

Israelis are victims in Hamas-Syria bid to dump Arafat

THERE is an unseen line connecting the current wave of Islamic terrorism against Israelis in Gaza and the failure of US diplomacy to push the tired negotiations between Syria and Israel ahead.

The leaders of the two terrorist wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Dr. Musa Abu Marzuk and Dr. Fathi Shkaki, are in Damascus. There is no real difference between the aims of their activities and Hizbullah's in southern Lebanon. The latter's financial support may arrive from Tehran, but it acts for Syrian interests in Lebanon. Hamas fills this role in Gaza and the territories.

To understand this connection, one must first understand the real motives of Syrian policy, and the differences inside the Hamas movement which lead its terrorist wing, the Izzadin Kassam, to ally itself with the Syrian secular-left regime.

Israeli policymakers, and probably their American counterparts, seem to misunderstand Hafez Assad's psychology. They concentrate on the Golan issue, while he considers Syria's role as a leader among the Arab nations much more pertinent. It is not only having the whole Golan back which is important to him, but the way he will regain it. Assad is refusing even to seriously negotiate on the Golan, as long as he has to accept the principles on which Israel and its other Arab partners agree on: the Camp David accords, the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, and most of all, the Oslo agreement.

Assad's dispute with Egypt and Jordan, focusing mainly on their having made separate peace agreements with Israel, is kept within reasonable bounds and does not stop him from maintaining contact with President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein. But he finds the Oslo agreement intolerable, both because it was achieved through a secret channel and because it stipulates a partial Israeli withdrawal in the territories and limited self-rule for the Palestinians.

There is no way Assad will en-

Opponents of Oslo want to oust the PLO leader and gain control of the Palestinian Authority before they talk to Israel, Pinhas Inbari writes

ter serious negotiations with Israel as long as Israel sticks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat. He will not participate in a peace process in which Arafat plays a major role.

Even before the Oslo agreement was signed, Assad refused to be where Arafat was present. On several occasions, Mubarak had to ask the PLO leader to leave Cairo so he could receive Assad there.

Through escalating terrorism in Gaza, the Syrian leader is now trying to sidetrack Arafat, to enable Damascus to make a true entrance into the peace process. Assad is not only bothered by Arafat as a person but by the fact that Syria would have to negotiate according to principles laid down with Arafat's agreement in Oslo. Assad will be ready to join

the peace convoy, it seems, only after the collapse of Arafat and the Oslo agreement.

This is the point of the recent meeting between Assad and the terrorist wing of Hamas, led by the head of Hamas's politburo, Dr. Abu Marzuk. To understand this, Hamas's internal dispute should be examined.

There are two major camps now inside the fundamentalist movement. The first is the "inside leadership" (the leaders in Israeli controlled areas), symbolized by its jailed leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

It tacitly supports Arafat and actually accepts the appointments made by the Palestinian Authority. The prominent leader of this group in the West Bank is Sheikh Hamed Bitawi of Nablus, currently the president of the

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Shari's courts of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

The inside leadership's strategy is to leave the job of negotiating with the Israelis to Arafat, while it takes control of powerful positions through the PA. This wing is therefore interested in keeping Arafat as a cover for its penetration of the new Palestinian administration; it has no military apparatus, and it does not engage in terrorism. This wing also opposes any contact with "red" Syria, for ideological considerations.

On the opposite side of the Hamas spectrum stands Abu Marzuk, the founder of the military wing, the Izzadin Kassam brigades. He has allied himself with Syria, and through terrorism he wants to topple Arafat and the Oslo agreement.

An interview given by one of his followers in Gaza, Sheikh Ahmed Baher, to the Jerusalem pro-Syrian weekly *Al-Umma* a few days before the Beit Lid attack, sheds light on Abu Marzuk's state of mind.

Baher made two statements which seem to contradict each

other, but do not, first, there is no religious prohibition to having a dialogue with Israel or the Israeli government, if it is based on granting the Palestinians their rights. However, he predicted - and said he supported - escalating terrorism against Israel.

The line of this wing is evident now: to topple Arafat through terrorism, with the aim of taking his place at the negotiating table with Israel. By referring to Israel by its name, Baher in effect recognizes it.

An entirely contrary position was expressed in a religious decree published September 19 by the "League of Palestine Wise Men" led by Sheikh Bitawi, forbidding any kind of negotiations with "the Jews who conquered Palestine."

The decree stated that Islam does not recognize agreements with Jews. Yet the decree raises the possibility of something short of peace - a cease-fire - with the Jews. To help Arafat, this wing wishes to stop terrorism and, in order to leave the PLO leader alone in the frontline of the talks, they refuse to recognize Israel.

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THE KNESSET

During the intermediate days of Passover, the Knesset building will be closed, and there will therefore be no tours of the building.

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Jerusalem District

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You are cordially invited to participate in free walking tours in the Old City during the Passover holiday, April 16-21, 1995

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Details at the Municipal Tourist Information Offices:
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Public Relations Department

All creatures great and small

THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

IT'S the holiday season, a giggle of summer is in the air. Man is at one with nature. "Where the bee sucks, there suck I, in a cow's stomach I lie."

Yes, it was "in a cow's stomach I lie" that Shakespeare sang, but what did he know? His mom never took him to the Petah Tikva cow clinic.

Down in this dark hinterland, long scorned by Tel Aviv as a synonym for backwardness, the media this week uncovered slaughterhouse 95 and its tales of yelling toddlers being immersed in the warm stomachs of freshly killed cows.

Apparently, haredi families with infants who suffer from motor difficulties have for years been using Petah Tikva's municipal slaughterhouse as a clinic of first resort for this esoteric treatment. Haredi medical lore passed down the generations holds that this practice - repeated several times - does wonders for a child's condition.

Nor, as *Yediot Aharanot* reported, is this the only superstitious treatment with animals or parts thereof that still survives in the haredi community. Also prescribed by folksy rabbis are such medical wonders as the beak-in-bum, the dead-dog-in-river and the sparrow-brain-boost.

In case you ever need the information: If a baby is born unconscious, insert a live chicken's beak in its rectum to help it survive; to avoid a stillborn birth, kill a small dog and throw it in the river; to ensure conception of a male child, seek the services of a male sparrow's brain or a cow's gall bladder.

Petah Tikva Mayor Giora Lev's unimaginative reaction to the media's cackling was immediately to close down the town slaughterhouse. He should, of course, have preserved it as a medical folklore museum, especially since it had already been running successfully for 19 years without a business license. Or a medical license, for that matter.

Lev also set up the inevitable committee to look into the affair. It is to recommend what action should be taken against the town veterinarian and slaughterhouse workers who knew of the goings-on and kept quiet.

Well, that's easy. Take the skin of one scapegoat, from its mother's womb untimely ripped at



waning moon, and immerse therein the errant municipal minions.

KILLER KNEIDLACH

There are more urgent matters awaiting the haredi medieval medical council than avoiding nasty girl babies. The really shocking pre-Pessah news this week is a grim warning that shakes the very foundations of our Jewish culture.

Kneidlach, chicken soup, chopped liver, schmaltz, gefilte fish, potatoes, tzimmes, beef and chicken, rich Pessah cakes and those sumptuous little peanut and coconut cookies may be... sit down please... dangerous to your health!

It is all especially dangerous, I might gleefully add, to those saug skinny ones among us whose bodies are not used to handling such shock assaults.

Those of us who watch our figures are used to entering a calorie-bomb alert on Pessah Eve. This year, however, we are asked to believe the Seder feast is not merely fattening, but fatal.

Doctors warn the traditional Seder meal with all the trimmings could easily soar to 5,000 calories. That adds up to nausea, oxygen starvation to the heart, shortness of breath, cardiac arrest and other terminal horrors.

And if the food doesn't kill you, how about all those drunken drivers lurching home at 120 unsteady km. per hour after Seder? Don't go - we're not finished yet.

Oh, that joyful, harmless, misleading Pessah facade.

This week several overzealous Pessah cleaners turned up in hospital emergency rooms with chemical poisoning from a wide range of cleaning materials. There were also hand and eye

allergies and minor injuries from fishbones.

There is, of course, a little wicked satisfaction in this news of those obsessive cleaners falling like flies.

"Every other night we slob apologize for the mess to the clean and tidy ones from homes so spick and span. Tonight, we can finally say, 'It's your health Pessah can damage.'"

GOLAN PLOT

The Land may be settled, but will the settler question ever be? Maybe.

Labor MKs Haggai Merom, Avraham Burg, and Yossi Katz are proposing an "evacuation-



To the PM's displeasure, MKs Yossi Katz (top), Haggai Merom (center), and Avraham Burg offered an "evacuation-compensation" plan for Gaza Strip families. (Harari, Scoop 80)

compensation" program for families who want to move out of the Gaza Strip.

At the same time, the Shalom Ledorot organization has launched a campaign to buy land in the Golan for NIS 25 a plot. Shalom Ledorot - until recently headed by Likud young guard chairman Uri Aloni - said thousands of Israelis could buy part of the Golan. Publicity for the campaign is being handled by the former Likud spokesman, Gil Samsonov.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is less than thrilled with the initiative of Merom, Burg and Katz. At the same time, Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani is spearheading a public fund-raising drive to preserve the Golan as an integral part of Israel.

Well, now, isn't the solution obvious?

Those who want to move from Gaza will surely be interested in a little NIS 25 homestead up in the green Golan.

NORMA RAYMON

"Go forth and organize the workers," thundered Haim Ramon from within the clouds swirling around Histadrut Heights. "One-fifth of them at most are paying members. It's not good enough."

Forth scurried dozens of labor council secretaries, as the wrath of the great one descended on their heads and they were sharply informed that it was none but themselves who were responsible for the drastic decline in Histadrut membership. They have not done enough to recruit new members, Ramon said.

One council secretary had a different perspective: "Ramon is covering his own ass in anticipation of future charges."

First, say the dissenting voices, Ramon severed the Histadrut from Kupat Holim, losing 1.8 million paying members. Then he destroyed the Histadrut's image by initiating a police investigation and branding everyone as thieves and embezzlers.

"Finally, he blames us for failing to persuade people to rejoin the Histadrut," moaned a leading labor-council secretary. "Why

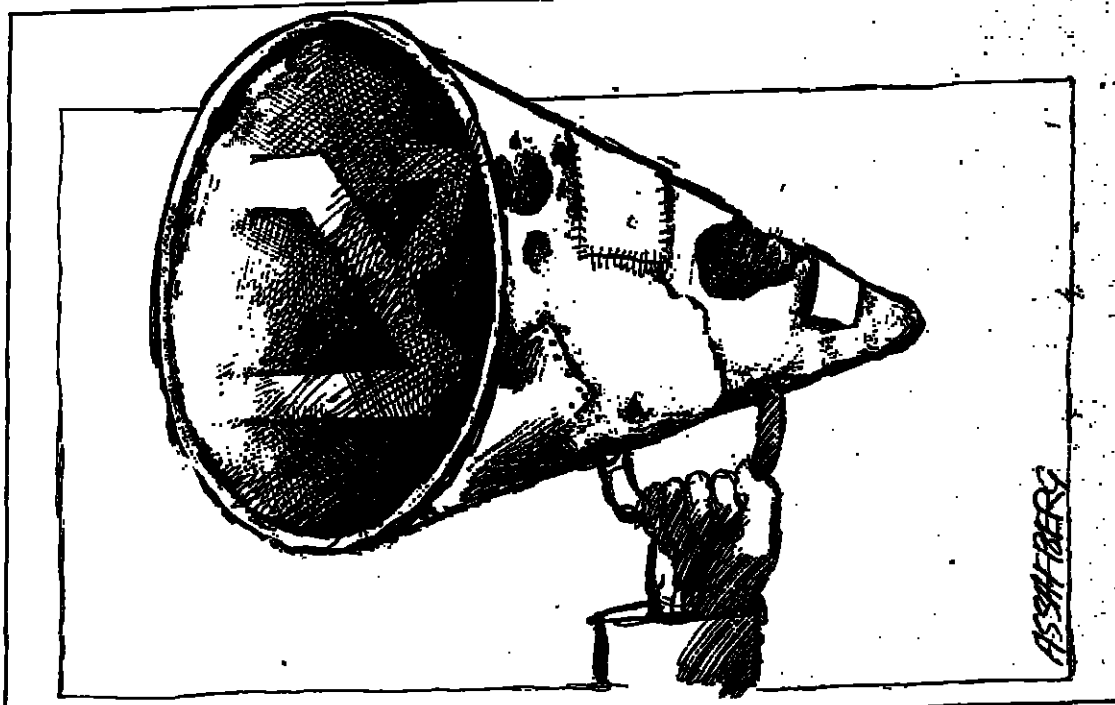


should anyone join if we're all portrayed as crooks?"

Ramon wanted to be known as the one who revolutionized the Histadrut. All agree he will enter history as its gravedigger.

The Histadrut of 1923 has become the Humptydrot of 1995.

And all Ramon's horses, and all Ramon's men, cannot put Humpty together again.



IDF puts truth on hold

Statements by the army spokesman are not as reliable as they once were, Alon Pinkas writes

ONCE upon a time, when the IDF was a source of infinite national pride, its generals were idolized as modern embodiments of Greek philosopher-kings, and announcements by the IDF spokesman carried weight, and were regarded as credible.

But profound social changes, combined with an almost religious approach to security and, ironically, the diminishing role of the army, have produced a new language: army newspeak.

It is not the unintelligible military acronyms or impoverished slang that characterize every military organization. It is not even the local equivalent of Pentagon-speak, that incoherent, pretentious, pseudoscientific, made-in-USA mumbo-jumbo. It is a genuinely idiosyncratic and indigenous dialect. It is the official gibberish of the cult of security.

Here are a few prime examples:

The Air Force yesterday attacked Hizbullah strongholds in Labe Tzafi (or any other site) in South Lebanon. Pilots reported accurate hits. [Similar statements have been used about shelling.]

The Air Force has been attacking Hizbullah targets since Israel pulled out of Lebanon in 1985. On average, such an attack is launched once in 10 days. That means that almost 300 air strikes have been made in the last decade. The pilots have always reported direct hits. This raises two perplexing questions. How many Hizbullah strongholds are there? And if all hits are accurate, how many are left?

Could it be the IAF is actually doing its training in Lebanon?

The army immediately opened an investigation of the circumstances of the unfortunate accident/incident.

This is code meaning the army has no idea what happened. It feels the media or politicians may

ask uncomfortable questions and therefore explanations are due and justifications must be made. Nothing is more appropriate than launching an official inquiry; that lets the army project an image of a serious organization that relentlessly examines itself. For example, following the 1990 Tze'elim-2 training accident, the army appointed more than one investigating committee, as it did after the 1993 net-roulette accident and the two accidental deaths by electrocution in July in Lebanon.

Further cuts in the defense budget and the increasing costs of routine security will bring us to the brink of the red line (of fighter-jet flight hours, live-ammunition training, etc.). We will not be able to provide the security we are asked to provide.

This horrific scenario is repeated like the prayer for rain every year, interestingly when the budget is presented by the Treasury minister. Every year our qualitative edge is further eroded for a variety of reasons: Arab militaries are undergoing a major qualitative and quantitative buildup, and our pilots are just not flying enough; nor does our artillery corps train enough with live ammunition.

If this is all true, then how can so many Hizbullah strongholds be demolished so many times with such deadly accuracy?

Second, Israel gets a \$1.8 billion annual military grant from the US, in addition to the administration's willingness to sell F-151 and MLRS rocket systems as part of guaranteeing Israel's qualitative edge.

Third, Israeli pilots fly more than their Syrian counterparts, tank crews train with live shells far more than Syrian, Jordanian and Egyptian tankers, not to mention the Lebanese - that is, even with financial constraints.

Fourth, routine security is the army's job, not a community service burden imposed on it by the Treasury.

The Hamas terrorists who were caught last night after a major manhunt by the IDF and the GSS are part of a cell known to security authorities. Its members are suspected of murdering... (any terror victim whose murder is unsolved).

Without belittling the tremendous difficulties of apprehending a wanted terrorist hiding among 2 million of his people, how is it possible that for the last three years the security establishment has been saying that there are no more than 20-odd wanted individuals, yet those caught are never subtracted from that figure? How is it possible that most of those caught are somehow linked to the murder of Mordechai Lapid and his two sons?

Yehuda Ayash, nicknamed "The Engineer," is responsible for planning the suicide attack.

This Ayash character has assumed, thanks to Israel's glorification of him, a frightening, larger-than-life Freddy Kreuger-esque dimension. On the one hand, our engineers launch a spy satellite, yet a chemistry student with a knowledge of explosives out of old East German military do-it-yourself manuals is probably the most famous scientist in our history after Albert Einstein.

So the country that put a state-of-the-art eye in the sky into orbit, designs and manufactures the world's premier tank (Merkava-3), has Apache attack helicopters and MLRS rockets, will receive 24 F-15s and three Dolphin submarines, and is reported to have a nuclear arsenal, is being terrorized by a 28-year-old thug.

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Modern-day witches: Fat, friendly and feminist

A convention on witches gives a new spin on the cranky old woman who scared generations of children the world over, Sue Fishkoff writes

WITCHES, according to children's author Susie Morgenstern, are politically incorrect. "The witch has given up on beauty. She doesn't try to hide her wrinkles, or get a facelift. She lives alone in a crooked house on the outskirts of town. She's not one of these politically correct women who can do anything a man can do. If she hammers a nail into the wall, she makes a crater. So why do we love her, this old, disheveled, wrinkled, hook-nosed, ugly lady?"

More than 200 writers, teachers and other witch aficionados spent three days this week at Tel Aviv's Sha'ar-Zion Library at Beit Ariela discussing the figure of the witch in world literature, during the library's third international conference on literature for children and young adults.

This year's conference focused on the witch, explained organizer Ewa Lieber, head of the library's cultural department, because she is a "figure of many faces... fear-inspiring and, at the same time, attractive," a character that appears in folk tales and children's bedtime stories in virtually every culture.

For the past few centuries, the figure of the witch has appeared in children's stories as the embodiment of evil, as a cranky old woman with a long nose and stringy hair, who flies on a broom, keeps cats and owls in her broken-down house, casts spells and eats small children. Stories about witches are often used to frighten children into behaving correctly, so the witch won't "get them."

The witch adopts a different guise in various cultures, said Tel Aviv University history lecturer Michael Har-Segor. The broom motif comes from England, whereas in Swedish folklore the witch flies naked on a priest or police chief, and is often accused of preventing cows from giving milk. Italian children's writer Nicoletta Costa described some of the "good witches" prevalent in Italian lore and fairy tales, including La Befana, an old, ugly witch with a good heart who brings presents to children on holidays.

Several presenters gave a feminist interpretation of the witch's role both in history and in legend and literature.

Har-Segor said organized witch-hunting began in medieval Europe as a power struggle between the Church and local pagan faith systems, which were

attracted to the witch's promise of an alternative paradise.

"Witches were dangerous to the authorities," he explained. "They competed with the Church's domination, and they were close to the people, more accessible."

Claiming that witches were "the world's first feminists," Har-Segor proposed erecting monuments in every public square in Europe in honor of the thousands of innocent women tortured and executed on spurious witchcraft charges, "monuments to the anonymous witch, to remember the evil and tyranny of Church fanaticism."

MEN HAVE always feared witches, seeing in them the essence of female mystery and power. British Council director Dr. Harley Brookes noted that "the witch is feared and hated in male-dominated society. She doesn't stay home, she doesn't bear children, she doesn't obey men, she roams around alone at night, and when she cooks, she uses the strangest ingredients."

More seriously, he added, the image of the witch's ability to drain men of their energy, thus dominating them, provoked clerics and town leaders to burn women suspected of such social and sexual heresy.

Adults, especially men, are often embarrassed to talk about witches, some speakers said. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, under whose auspices the conference was held, introduced the opening night session by suggesting that 1,000 witches fly into the city one night on their brooms and clean up the streets. "I think some of the problems we're facing in Israel, and in Tel Aviv, could be helped by witchcraft," he quipped.

IN THE past few decades, a kinder, more "human" witch has emerged in children's literature alongside the traditional demonic character, according to Hebrew University literature professor Dr. Mari Baruch.

Psychology and television have made today's young people "less naive, more cynical," she explained. "They want to verify everything. They don't believe their grandmother's stories. Parents today can't keep knowledge from their children like they could 100 years ago."

At least in Hebrew children's literature, Israel's geography provides no setting for the traditional European



The witch in Walt Disney's 'Snow White' is the typical embodiment of evil in children's stories.

witch character. "We don't have cellars or castles or deep, dark forests where witches can lurk," Baruch said. "Because of all these reasons, there's no

place in Hebrew literature today for the 'old' witch."

But, she added, that's led to the emergence of a "new, different witch."

Like Aaron Shemi's popular roly-poly Grett, who deals with her weight problem by opening a restaurant. Today's witches have very human traits. Nurit

An erotic figure in Jewish folklore

IN Jewish lore, the witch figure is highly erotic, according to the head of the Folklore Research Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dov Noy, who spoke this week at Tel Aviv's Sha'ar-Zion Library's third international conference on literature for children and young adults.

He explored the witch figure in Jewish tradition, beginning with Lilith, the beautiful, adulterous, willful first wife of Adam, later replaced by the more obedient Eve.

"It's no coincidence," he noted.

"that Lilith is the name of the American Jewish feminist magazine."

The overt biblical reference to witches is the admonition in Exodus not to "suffer a witch to live," but fortunetellers and even such characters as the Queen of Sheba, renowned for extraordinary mental powers, have witch-like characteristics.

The archives of Jewish literature at Haifa University contain many ribald tales that have not been published or are not widely known, Noy said. The Jerusalem Talmud, for example, con-

tains a sexually charged tale of 80 witches sitting in a cave in Ashkelon, who are defeated by their own lust when 80 young yeshiva students pretend to seduce them.

Research on witches in Jewish tradition is very underdeveloped, said Noy. "There is much resistance, coming from the feeling that witches are not Jewish." In the 1930s, the first academic study of witchcraft and magic in Jewish folk religion appeared, and was dismissed, he said, as nonsense.

Zarhi's witch runs away from school because of its rigid rules and tough exams.

"Modern witches have adapted to the times," Baruch said. "They ride on vacuum cleaners." And children appear as more powerful characters in the stories, rather than helpless victims. All seven witch stories published last year in Hebrew feature children overcoming their fear of witches and learning that these women are just regular, if quirky, folks.

Dr. Miriam Bat-Ami of Michigan University described the growing censorship of witch stories in the United States, which she called a "conservative backlash against the Other, led by [House Speaker] Newt Gingrich."

Children's books, she said, "are being challenged for being un-Christian, for being too explicit, for not having a happy ending."

In 1994, she said, 107 children's books were censored in America because of their references to the occult, more than for any other single reason. Traditional witch figures are also "sanitized," she said, as in some "updated" versions of *Hansel and Gretel* where the wicked witch runs away instead of being burned.

"The witch-hunters are back," noted British children's author Anthony Horowitz. "In the name of political correctness, they'll find their witches."

THE psychotherapeutic role of the witch figure in children's literature was addressed by several speakers. Haifa University professor Dr. Adir Cohen explained how the witch, as the embodiment of evil, "stands in for" a child's mother, involving feelings of anger, guilt and fear. In witch stories, the hero character must struggle and overcome her, symbolizing a child's search for growth and self-development.

Cohen outlined one use of the witch in child therapy, where a child is asked first to draw "the most horrible, most grotesque" witch possible, and then to redraw it several times, each time as less terrifying. "The child gradually grasps that the witch is created by us, that she doesn't exist outside us," Cohen explained.

Shila Modan, author of the children's book *Lior's Witch*, in which a little boy learns to conquer his fears, said that witch stories are metaphors for growing up. "The richness of a person's development depends on his ability to be in touch with his dark force. The witches show us what is difficult, where we are stuck in our development, what we still have to overcome."

There is still a need for witch stories, Baruch concluded. "The world is not totally comprehensible," she said. "The witch is part of proving that all is not clear, that even in this modern age much remains unknown."

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If it's spring, let there be music, dance and cream cakes

For nine heady days, Esther Hecht listened, watched and tasted at the Budapest Spring Festival

IT was a field day for the percussionists. The kettle drummer pounded away for dear life. The cymbalist clashed and clanged.

The thunderous opening of Strauss's *Thus Spake Zarathustra* - known more popularly as the theme of the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey - matched my sense of adventure, on the eve of a visit to Hungary for the 15th annual Budapest Spring Festival.

This was to be a cultural feast, a chance to visit as many museums and attend as many concerts, operas and ballets as I could pack into nine days, as guest of the Hungarian Tourist Board.

It was hard to choose among the dozens and dozens of performances that made up the 24-day festival that ended last week. Anna Popper, of the tourist board, recommended the first concert, in which the soloist was Latvian-born violinist Gideon Kremer.

"These tickets are found treasure," she said, and indeed, it was standing room only. The venue was the Liszt Academy of Music, alma mater to generations of music teachers and performing musicians. Local residents, who fill its concert halls almost nightly, speak of the academy with reverence.

"This building is sacred," said City Councillor Zoltan Csorvaszki, 33, while visiting Israel last week for Budapest Week in Jerusalem.

The building's name suggests a certain austerity. But, like all Budapest's concert halls and theaters, it is rich in visual detail: finely carved wooden leaf patterns on the ceiling, stained-glass lighting fixtures bearing the names of composers, art nouveau colored glass panels in the halls.

And it resonates with history, not all of it happy. It was here, after World War II, that the local equivalent of the Nuremberg trials took place.

IT WAS spring in Budapest, so there were flowers. Hundreds and hundreds of plastic carnations - red, white and pink. Sprouting from all the floorboards on the curtainless stage of the Vigszhaz Theater, so brightly lit, so matter-of-factly there, they generated mystery and expectation.

How, we wondered, would Pina Bausch's Wuppertal Dance Theater perform in a space that was already so crowded?

One by one the dancers entered,

carefully picking their way so as not to trample the carnations. They carried armchairs, the kind you see in grandparents' homes in Jerusalem, "the kind party functionaries used to sit on at meetings," my Hungarian companion whispered fiercely.

In scene after scene, disturbing and haunting, and sometimes amusing, the dancers presented the world as seen through a child's eyes. Gradually, inevitably, they trod on the flowers, leaped on them, rolled on them.

In the end, the stage was a killing field, the people and the carnations - all dead.

This drama unfolded in the newly renovated Vigszhaz, a frothy yellow-and-white confection erected in 1896, like many of the city's most beautiful buildings, for the celebrations of the Hungarian millennium. It is "a real Budapest theater, a must for every visitor," according to Deputy Mayor Janos Schiffer, who was also in Jerusalem last week.

Of course there was also dance of the kind that is easier on the soul: Laszlo Seregi's *The Taming of the Shrew*, one of several performances with a Shakespearean theme, was a kaleidoscope of color and light. The sheer pleasure of gorgeous costumes, elaborately clever stage sets, exuberant dancing - and a fiercely independent Kate - had me smiling and grinning till my cheeks ached.

And the venue, local politicians' views notwithstanding, is Budapest for me. The State Opera House, where Gustav Mahler was director for three seasons, is a neo-Renaissance and baroque fantasy of rosy marble and gilt, with interior decoration so rich I barely had time to see everything I wanted to see during the long intermissions.

THIS YEAR marks the 50th anniversary of Bartok's death; his works, like those of Liszt, Kodaly, Kalman and other Hungarian composers, were featured throughout the festival, as were the creations of Scandinavian artists and composers.

The ninth night of my Budapest holiday was spent at a Bartok concert by the Gyor Girls' Choir, conducted with tiny movements by a wraithlike, poker-faced Miklos Szabo. With bell-like clarity and amazing precision, the young women rendered a cappella the light



Budapest's State Opera House, where Gustav Mahler was once director, is a fantasy of rosy marble and gilt.

but musically complex set of 27 songs.

The setting, the Vigado Theater, restored after much of it was destroyed during World War II, was particularly apt. It was here, according to Israel Radio's Yisrael Daliot, that Bartok conducted his last concert before leaving Hungary in protest against the events of World War II.

ALL THAT WAS Budapest by night, or

more accurately, evening. Performances start early - 7 p.m. at the Opera House, 7:30 at other locations - so that after a performance there is time for a late coffee, a drink, or dinner.

The city by day is all the bustle and congestion of a metropolis with a population of two million. Walking in the crisp spring air, or riding the very efficient and cheap (less than NIS 1 per ride) public transportation system,

turned out to be the best ways of getting around. It also meant not having to deal with the few unscrupulous taxi drivers who prey on tourists.

And, as I stayed in the centrally located Forum Hotel, virtually everything I wanted to see was within walking distance, or easily reached by tram, bus or metro.

Of the museums, the most inspiring was that of ceramicist Margit Kovacs,

in Szentendre, on the northern edge of the city. In a multitude of styles she pours into the most elementary of materials an amazing amount of compassion.

But the most striking museum, and completely different in spirit from Kovacs's, is the Vasarely, just north of the Roman excavations of Aquincum. It is housed in a former manor storehouse that held guns and uniforms, and even served as a stable.

In two enormous floors are 350 of the Hungarian-born artist's works - sketches, posters, paintings, collages and sculptures. Once the darling of the art world, Vasarely has lost cachet. "You can't sell his works today," my colleague, Meir Ronnen, told me.

And yet, the mainly geometric designs, executed with nearly superhuman precision on enormous canvases, are exhilarating. So much so, that I could hardly believe that my companion and I were the only visitors on a Saturday afternoon.

A VISITOR to the Hungarian capital, no matter how culture minded, would not restrict herself to food for the soul. A meat eater would find no end of opportunities, from the famous Gundel restaurant, to the lavish buffets at the Marriott Hotel, to the huge steaks at the Czar's restaurant behind the Forum, and the innumerable excellent - and far cheaper - restaurants frequented by locals.

Even a semivegetarian (I eat fish but no meat) can dine exceedingly well, though the explosion of McDonald's and other American fast-food chains in the downtown area might suggest otherwise. Most meat restaurants also serve fish.

Vegetarian, a three-year-old restaurant on Cukor Street, near the university, and Grif, an established restaurant on Acacia (acacia tree) Street in the old Jewish Quarter, have a full vegetarian menu (in addition to fish and meat offerings).

In both places, a three-course meal with beer or wine cost less than the equivalent of NIS 30, as did the most expensive ticket of all the performances I attended, including the opera.

And then there was dessert. Chocolate, mocha, nut, dobos - the row of cream cakes in the Forum's Vienna Cafe was a bewildering temptation on my first day in the city. Then a simple solution presented itself: Start from the right, and indulge in a different flavor each day.

But, like the offerings of the festival and the museums of the city, there was far more than a visitor could consume, even in nine days. What better reason to come back next spring?

Now's the perfect time to explore home

Caesarea shows off its hippodrome

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

THOUGH the planes are filled with Israelis going abroad for the holiday, Pessah remains the time when many of us take the opportunity to see a little more of our own country. There are hundreds of special events throughout the holiday. Here are just a few of them.

THE NATIONAL Parks Authority is offering free guided tours of a large number of sites from Sunday through Saturday at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. The sites include Nimrod's Fortress, Belvoir, Megiddo, Beit She'an, Beit She'arim, Tzipori, Beit Guvrin, Tel Beersheba, Masada, Ein Avdat, Avdat and Mamshit. At Caesarea, there are to be free guided tours Thursday through Saturday.

Free guided tours are also being given by the Israel Antiquities Authority on Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at some of the country's recently excavated sites. These include Old Acre, Nebi Samwil near Jerusalem, the Martyr's Monastery in Ma'aleh Adumim, and Ein Hatzeva.

A different kind of service is being offered by the Nature Reserves Authority for the holiday.

Callers to 02-389068 or 02-387561 will be able to find out whether the reserve they had planned to visit is packed with visitors, and to hear about possible alternative destinations.

THE WELL-established music festivals, such as the one at Ein Giv, attract masses of visitors, but there are also less publicized events, such as a series of evenings dedicated to Israeli singing at Mitzpe Massua, near the Ayalon Valley, this and next Saturday night and Wednesday night at 9. At the nearby Beit Jimal Monastery there are to be two concerts, on Wednesday and Friday, at 2 p.m. (tickets NIS 20).

AT ATRAKTZIA, the water park on the Dead Sea, there will be afternoon performances with a series of guest artists, as well as fashion shows, a puppet theater and a miniature amusement park. Admission costs NIS 39, but is free for anyone less than a meter tall.

ON THE Golan Heights, the Go-

lan Winery at Katzrin has enlarged its visitors' center, which includes a film and a tour through the production plant. For teetotalers, Mei Eden nearby also has a new visitors' center with a film and guided tours. Entry to each site is NIS 9 for adults, NIS 4 for children, but there is a discount for people visiting both sites. Visitors also receive wine and a mineral-water bottle holder at the respective plants. Hours, this Sunday through Thursday, are 8 to 4.

On Tuesday through Thursday there will also be a kite festival at Katzrin, with kite makers from around the world, entertainment, demonstrations, kite making and kite decoration by well-known artists. Entry is NIS 20.

IN THE Jordan Valley, a bazaar is planned at Migfash Habika, with free entry to the alligator farm at nearby Moshav Petzel. For a fee, visitors will also be able to feed the alligators. There will also be tours down to the Jordan River in an area formerly closed

to visitors. The fee for the tour is NIS 5 per person.

THE NATIONAL Science Museum in Haifa promises a varied happening from Monday through Wednesday, 10 to 5, with Israeli high-tech industries demonstrating their newest developments. Entry to the museum is free, but there are to be some workshops for which there will be a fee.

AT THE Eretz Yisrael Museum in Tel Aviv there will be song and dance groups, special workshops, organized tours, storytelling and special planetarium shows Monday through Wednesday from 10 to 6. Entry is NIS 14 for adults, NIS 9 for children.

HAMEI YOAV, the mineral baths near Ashdod, will feature a holiday crafts fair, with courses in basket making, silk-screen printing, ceramics and jewelry making. There are also to be water-scooter shows and a chef is to demonstrate the preparation of fish specialties. The site is to be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during *Hol Hamoed*, and remain open until 10 p.m. on Tuesday. Admission is NIS 28 for adults, NIS 24 for children.

VISITORS to Caesarea have long been impressed by the walled Crusader city and by the theater, but now they will also be able to see what has been described as the largest hippodrome in the world.

The description is that of Carmi Heller, director of the Caesarea Development Project, whose job it is to restore and display the finds the archeologists have dug up. Dr. Yosef Porath, the archeologist in charge of the dig itself, is more conservative, calling it a very large structure which at various times served different functions, including that of amphitheater, stadium and hippodrome.

What is certain is that unless you have visited Caesarea very recently, you have not seen some of the major finds open to the public just in time for Pessah. The finds are all in an area of excavations between the theater and the Crusader walls.

Starting from the southern end of the new excavations, where the reconstructed theater meets the sea, one can see the bedrock foundations of a palace.

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SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

"We would like to think that this was Herod's palace, but we have no proof," Porath says.

Farther north are far more identifiable remains, including the limestone benches of the amphitheater-hippodrome. Along the benches are entrances and exits and one section with niches for small statues, which evidently served as a place where ceremonies were held before the various games and races. At some point, Porath says, the structure was also used for gladiator contests, as well as for chariot races.

The structure was U-shaped, but today we are able to see only the benches on the east and south sides, as those on the west have been washed away by the sea. Although many of the stones

have disappeared, probably taken by later generations for other uses, a remarkable portion of this structure remains.

One can also see part of the residential area further north and to the east of the amphitheater, with several geometric mosaics and even a small portion of wall fresco. Especially impressive is the bathhouse.

One feature which is appealing both to the archeologist and the uninitiated visitor is a spout in the shape of a lion's head. At some point this spout became clogged up and we can see another, more simple, spout, immediately above it.

As impressive as the current finds may be, we have plenty more surprises in store for us. According to Porath, less than a tenth of Roman Caesarea has been excavated.

Admission to the site is NIS 12 for adults and NIS 6 for children.

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- The Goren Park - Montfort Castle - Meet residents - Light refreshments and Nature Trail
- Lunch (provided)
- Audio Visual Presentation and Tour of the Underground Mass Emergency Center - Nahariya Hospital
- Kibbutz Lohamei Hageta'ot
- Participation in the Dedication Ceremony of the John Najmann Creativity Classroom - Yad Leyeved
- Return to Tel Aviv by coach - approximate time of arrival 8:00 p.m.

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THE KNESSET

During the intermediate days of Passover, the Knesset building will be closed, and there will therefore be no tours of the building.

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AACI wishes a happy and kosher Pesach to all of the people of Israel!!

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April 24-26, 1995

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Special Session, Open to the Public

Wednesday, April 26, 5:30-6:15 p.m., at Tel Aviv University, Bar-Shira Auditorium.
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3. The apartment may be viewed from April 16, 1995, by appointment with the undersigned.
4. Bids should include the name of the bidder, ID number, address and bid total, and should be submitted to the office of the undersigned, at 12 Shmayer St., Jerusalem, by May 15, 1995.
5. A copy of an appraiser's report of the apartment and a copy of the lease are available at the office of the undersigned against payment of NIS 234 (non-refundable)
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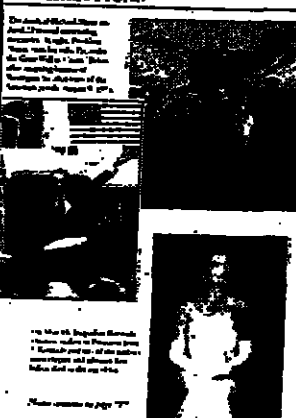
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Likud-Labor war of words continues

SARAH HONIG

A DAY after acrimonious confrontations in the Knesset, Labor and the Likud yesterday agreed to attempt a more civil mode of conduct, but the declarations of intent did not appear to stop the war of words.

Apparently moved by the holiday spirit, Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivli wrote Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu and proposed a cease-fire in the verbal war between the parties. "Let's show mutual self-respect and mutual restraint," he suggested, adding that "in these hard

times, it behooves all sides to fully support the IDF."

But as soon as his message was sent, Zivli elaborated on his letter at a pre-Pessah toast for Labor activists.

He explained that "the tone must be lowered. It is not great wisdom for the opposition to escalate the public debate and use extreme incitement whenever Jews are killed in terrorist outrages. This must stop."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told those assembled that "these are difficult times, but they are

not unique. This nation has known worse times, but knew how to bear the hardships. We must decide now whether we show resolve or act like crybabies."

At the Likud's Pessah toast, Netanyahu expressed gratification at Zivli's letter and noted that he is not saying this as "an accomplice of Hamas and Islamic Jihad," as Rabin had called him.

Netanyahu added, however, that he "would have been happy

to have had a conciliatory letter come from Rabin himself. In our eyes, political opponents were never perceived as the enemy, and we have always advocated legitimate and substantive political debate."

In his own written reply to Zivli, Netanyahu congratulated Labor "for having concluded that it ought to relinquish personal attacks and mud-slinging against Likud spokesmen."

In his address at the Pessah toast Netanyahu chose to take on Rabin's assessment that "it will be weeks or months before we

know whether Arafat can curb Hamas. In the 20 months since the Oslo accord," he said, "all Rabin's assumptions have collapsed, and there is no foundation for his hopes now... We did not return to our homeland to live in ghettos, behind barbed wire, and at the mercy of our enemies... The Oslo agreement offers immunity to those who plot murder, who supply and send out the suicide bombers, but who do not want to die themselves."

"It is time to untie the IDF's hands," he added.

Spy-swap proposal with Russia, US would free Pollard

ISRAEL has proposed a three-way spy swap with the US and Russia that would free Jonathan Pollard, an official said yesterday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed a report in *Ha'aretz* that said Israel has offered to free Marcus Klingberg, an Israeli convicted in 1983 of spying for the former Soviet Union and jailed for 18 years.

In turn, Russia would release unnamed American agents and the US would free Pollard, *Ha'aretz* said.

The report did not say Russia or the US had agreed, and embassies for both countries in Israel declined comment.

Pollard, 40, admitted selling Israel thousands of secrets from 1984 until his arrest in November 1985 and is serving a life sentence.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an interview with *Ha'aretz*, confirmed that Russia approached Israel with a request for the release of Klingberg, a professor who headed Israel's Nes Ziona biological research center and is now 78 and in failing health.

"There were informal requests, maybe here and there formal ones," Rabin was quoted as saying.

Rabin refused comment on the spy swap report, telling Israel Ra-

dio: "I don't know about such a deal."

The Israeli official said the proposal was raised by Israel during the recent visit of Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who met with Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Ha'aretz said that Israel insists any release of Klingberg come as part of a package that included freedom for Pollard.

Ha'aretz said that Elyakim Rubinstein, the Defense Ministry's legal adviser, was in Washington this week to discuss the possible release of Pollard with senior American officials.

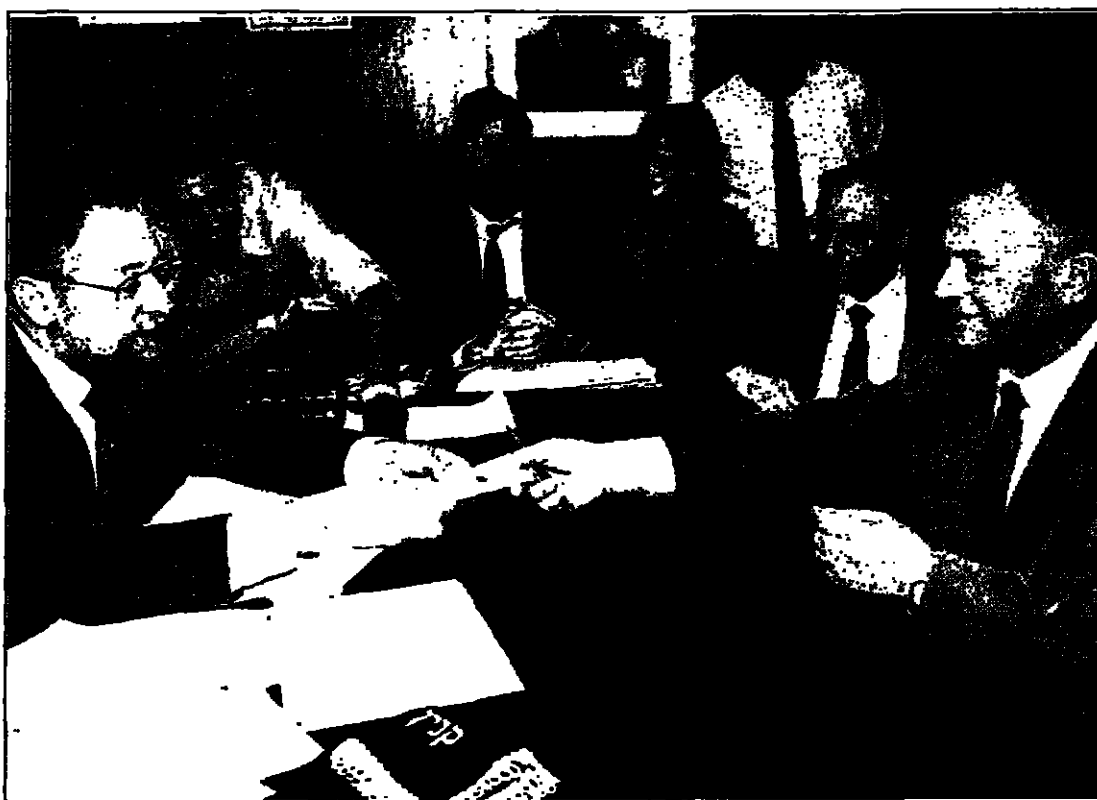
Rubinstein was expected to return yesterday.

Klingberg's former attorney, Amnon Zichroni, told Israel Radio he believed the report was true.

He said Klingberg was elderly and sick and no longer posed a security risk for Israel.

"The big question is if there is any willingness on Clinton's part... to release Pollard," he told Army Radio.

Zichroni said the involvement of senior government officials signaled a change in the attitudes of Israel and Russia regarding spies, since "in the past, countries were not willing to take responsibility for people who worked for them as spies." (AP)



Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau sells the nation's *hametz* to Salman Daoud, of the village of Beit Safafa in Jerusalem, yesterday. Daoud has been the catering and dining room manager of the King David Hotel for more than 40 years. (Brian Hendler)

'Crazy Eddie' Antar's conviction overturned

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

A FEDERAL appellate court has overturned the fraud and racketeering convictions of "Crazy Eddie" Antar and his brother, Mitchell, saying on Wednesday that the judge in their trial had been biased against them.

The brothers owned the "Crazy Eddie" electronics stores, whose screaming commercials insisted that their "prices were insane."

The company collapsed in 1989 and Eddie Antar, 47, disappeared. Three years later, he was picked up in Israel, where he was living under an assumed name.

In 1993, the brothers were convicted on charges related to one of the largest stock frauds in US

history. Eddie was sentenced to 12 years in prison and ordered to return \$121 million to investors. Mitchell got a lighter sentence.

Prejudice against them was demonstrated at their sentencing hearing, when US District Judge Nicholas Politan said that, "from Day One," his goal had been to return to the public what had been "taken from it as a result of the fraudulent activities of this defendant and others."

Record-topping arrests of illegal Arab workers

A record 919 Arabs from the territories hired illegally by employers in the central district have been rounded up since Sunday by police, at over 1,000 work places. Some 93 reports were issued against employers and 22 against those allowing Arabs to stay overnight illegally in Israeli towns. Raine Marcus

Hospital beauty pageant

A "HANDSOME Hospital" competition was launched yesterday by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh and the Council for a Beautiful Israel. The contest - the first of its kind - will encompass 10 general hospitals owned by the government. They will be judged on the looks of the exterior, emergency rooms, inpatient wards, outpatient clinics, offices, corridors, toilets and other facilities.

Judges will visit the hospitals in the near future, and award three, four or five stars. Winners will be announced in December. Judy Siegel

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9:30 a.m. Rabbi Giffen: "Wonders of Jewish History"

2:30 p.m. Special Video Show, featuring President Clinton and Steven Spielberg

5:00 p.m. Rabbi Meyer: Star International Speaker "Do love and marriage go together?"

8:30 p.m. Rabbi Noah Weinberg, Dean of Aish HaTorah: "ABC's of Jewish Pleasure"

Tuesday, April 18

9:30 a.m. Rabbi Pliskin, renowned author: "Begin Again Now": A Jewish Approach to Growth and Happiness

11:30 a.m. One hour Rooftop Tour of Old City, starting at the new Aish HaTorah World Center, overlooking the Western Wall (leaving from King David Hotel at 11:00 a.m.)

2:30 p.m. Special Video Show (details as Monday)

5:00 p.m. Rabbi Berger: Star Lecturer of Discovery: "The Jewish Challenge": A discussion on the why's of antisemitism.

8:30 p.m. Rabbi Zeldman: "Hidden Codes of the Torah": A fascinating experience, from the Discovery Seminar

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